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3rd World group condemns Israeli settlements

HARARE (R) — A group of Third World countries on Tuesday presented a resolution condemning Israeli settlements in the occupied Arab territories to a United Nations housing conference. Algeria, China, Egypt, Indonesia, Iraq, Jordan, Libya, Sri Lanka, Tunisia and the United Arab Emirates proposed that the world Conference on Human Settlements — attended by 76 states — should urge U.N. Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar to address the housing needs of Palestinians. "The Commission on Human Settlements condemns strongly the continuation of Israeli settlements in Palestinian territories and the housing of new settlers in them," the resolution said. The draft resolution is scheduled to be debated at the end of the 10-day conference on Wednesday. "The Commission on Human Settlements requests the secretary-general, in consultation with the executive director and in cooperation with the Palestine Liberation Organisation, to devise a plan for the implementation of a shelter strategy for the Palestinian people to the year 2000," it added.

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Jordan celebrates Red Cross, Crescent Day

AMMAN (J.T.) — Under the patronage of His Majesty King Hussein the Jordan National Red Crescent Society (JNRCS) will Wednesday mark the International Day of the Red Cross and Red Crescent movement. This year's celebration which will be held to express solidarity with the victims of war will be held under the motto "Light in the Darkness." As of Wednesday, May 8, and until the beginning of next November, several projects will be carried out to help the victims of war in various countries. The projects will be financed through donations. A worldwide campaign for protecting the victims of war has started by the end of January (see related story on page 5).

Genscher hopeful on hostage issue

TEHRAN, Iran (AP) — German Foreign Minister Hans Dietrich Genscher said Tuesday that Tehran was doing all it could to secure the release of western hostages in Lebanon. Briefing reporters travelling with him after a meeting with Iranian President Hashemi Rafsanjani, Genscher said he was "hopeful" about progress on the hostage issue, but gave no other details. Genscher said he felt Rafsanjani would exert all efforts to gain release of the captives, because, Tehran wanted better relations with the West. "Thirty-two westerners are missing in Lebanon and believed held by pro-Iranian Shi'ite militants. They are six Americans, four Britons, two Germans and an Italian. Their continued captivity has been the major hurdle in better ties between Iran and the European Community."

Iranian official rejects Saudi proposal

TEHRAN (R) — The Iranian in charge of arranging the annual pilgrimage to Mecca has rejected a Saudi proposal that Iranian pilgrims visit their hatred of Israel and the United States at a secluded site away from other pilgrims. "The Saudis suggested the rally be held in a place in the mountains but this is not possible," said Mehdi Imam Jamarani, the head of Iran's Haj and Endowments Organisation. "We cannot shout our cries of hatred against America and infidels in the confines of the site proposed by the Saudis. We must shout in a place where the believers can be informed and the infidels hear us, too," he told a gathering on Monday of doctors to accompany Iran's 110,000 pilgrims to Mecca in June. "The disavowal must be public," he added. His remarks were printed in Kayhan newspaper on Tuesday.

Qaboos chairs GCC security committee

MANAMA, Bahrain (AP) — Sultan Qaboos of Oman chaired a meeting of the Gulf Cooperation Council's supreme security committee in Muscat Tuesday to develop post-war regional security arrangements that some sources believe will eventually include Iran. The meeting was held as U.S. Secretary of Defence Dick Cheney was visiting the six GCC states — Saudi Arabia, Kuwait, Qatar, Bahrain, the United Arab Emirates and Oman — to discuss military support by the U.S.-led western allies to ensure stability in the oil-rich region.

Court overrules damages against KAL

WASHINGTON (R) — A U.S. court of appeals on Tuesday overturned an award of \$50 million in punitive damages against Korean Air Lines stemming from the 1988 Soviet downing of an airliner with 269 people on board. A jury in 1989 found the plane's crew guilty of willful misconduct that caused the disaster and awarded the damages to families of 157 passengers who were killed when Soviet fighters downed KAL flight 007 near the Soviet Union's Pacific coast on Sept. 1,

Jordan, PLO want active Soviet role

By Rama Sabbagh
 - Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan and the PLO want Moscow to use its developing links with Israel to persuade it to halt settlement in the occupied territories and accept the principle of trading land for peace, officials said on Tuesday.

Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker will make separate visits to the region this week for talks on a Middle East peace conference which the two countries have agreed to co-sponsor.

"The Soviet Union can play a very important role in any Middle East peace," a Jordanian government official said.

"It has always accepted U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 as the basis for any peace conference, is against Israel's settlements policy and is for an active PLO role in any peace talks."

The two resolutions demand Israel trade lands it occupied during the 1967 war for peace with the Arabs. Baker, in three regional tours in less than two months, has achieved little progress in arranging peace talks or convincing Israel to accept the principles behind the two resolutions.

Bessmertnykh goes to Israel on Friday on the first visit by a Soviet official since Moscow cut ties with the Jewish state over the 1967 Arab-Israeli war.

He will also travel to Syria, Jordan and Egypt. "I hope Bessmertnykh will put in the minds of the Israeli government that future relations...will greatly depend on Israel's flexibility and adherence to international legality in any peace process and halting settlements," Mohammad Milhem, a member of the Palestine Liberation Organisation's Executive Committee

told Reuters. "Israel also needs Moscow's cooperation, be it for normalising ties or for keeping the flow of immigration to Israel," the Jordanian official said.

But Milhem struck a less optimistic note about a Soviet Middle East peace role: "I don't expect much from them because their decision will depend greatly on that of Washington."

Jordan and the PLO, worried by a two-year-old influx of Soviet Jewish immigrants to Israel and the possibility that many will go to settlements in the occupied West Bank and Gaza Strip, want the United States and the Soviet Union to try to halt the settlement policy.

"Settlements are the most dangerous aspect in trying to

settle the Arab-Israeli conflict and the Soviet Union is the source for this immigration," said the Jordanian official.

"No one expects Moscow to stop the immigration, but at least they can find other reception places and create routine delays."

Milhem said Moscow's open-door immigration policy was unwise because "it makes Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir and his government less ready to go for a solution and to be flexible."

More than one million Soviet Jews are expected to settle in Israel by the end of 1992. Jordanians fear they will push Palestinians across the border into Jordan.

Syria favours PLO, elected Palestinians for peace talks

DAMASCUS (R) — Syria said Tuesday Palestinians should be represented in proposed Middle East Peace talks either by the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) or by Palestinians elected from the occupied territories.

Foreign Minister Farouq Al Shara said President Hafez Al Assad conveyed this position to U.S. Secretary of State James Baker in recent talks in Damascus.

"Syria does not see any formula for a real and honest Palestinian representation other than the PLO or Palestinians to be elected from the occupied territories," Shara said.

Syria has been at odds with the PLO leadership since the mid-1980s and has backed several Palestinian groups which are not

members of the organisation. Shara said Syria's insistence on comprehensive peace meant it would not accept unilateral peace between Israel and Syria or Israel and the Palestinians.

"There should be a comprehensive agreement covering all parties," Shara said.

Shara also said it was up to Israel to make U.S. peace effort work and Israel should take the blame if they failed.

Shara told reporters in an interview ahead of Middle East tours by Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh and U.S. Secretary of State James Baker:

"The ball is now in the court of Israel. If Baker's mission fails it would be Israel who should be blamed."

Shara welcomed Baker's tour,

his fourth to the region since the end of the Gulf war, and said U.S. efforts were important at this stage in peace talks.

But he spelt out Syrian objections to the Israeli concept of a peace conference and to any separate peace agreements.

The proposed peace conference should not be a ceremonial one and should be continuous, he said. Israel wants only a one-off meeting leading to bilateral talks with its Arab neighbours.

Syria wanted a comprehensive peace settlement covering all parties concerned in the Arab-Israeli conflict. Shara said.

"Syria would not accept a unilateral solution even if this covered the (return of) Golan Heights. It would not accept a solution covering the Palestinians alone," he said.

Baker, Bessmertnykh discuss Mideast peace in Cairo Sunday

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — A U.S.-Soviet effort to set up a Middle East peace conference goes into high gear this week when Secretary of State James Baker and his Soviet counterpart embark on separate missions to the region.

Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh leaves Wednesday on a mission that would take him to the same four countries that Baker plans to visit when he sets out Friday. Egyptian officials said today Baker and Bessmertnykh will meet on Sunday in Cairo.

Both Osama Al Baz, President Hosni Mubarak's political adviser, and Foreign Minister Esmat Abdul Maguid said Baker and Soviet Foreign Minister Alexander Bessmertnykh will be in the Egyptian capital during Middle East tours beginning this week.

Neither official gave a date for the meeting, but a senior Egyptian diplomat said it will be on Sunday. He said Baker and Bessmertnykh in fact may get together twice, once each at the U.S. and Soviet embassies.

Baker is expected to arrive Saturday night or Sunday, when Bessmertnykh already will be in Cairo. Soviet officials say their minister leaves Cairo on Sunday.

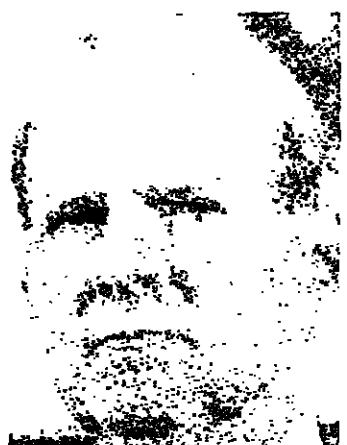
"Visits by the foreign ministers of the two superpowers to the region and their planned meeting in Cairo reflect the international community's interest in the cause of Middle East peace," Al Baz told reporters, confirming newspaper reports of a Cairo meeting.

He expressed hope the ministers' talks in the region "will lead to progress that will increase the chances of starting Middle East peace negotiations during the next few months."

Foreign Minister Abdul



Alexander Bessmertnykh



James Baker

Meguid said Bessmertnykh "will meet with President Mubarak and will have talks with the U.S. secretary of state."

Baker leaves Washington on Friday for the Middle East. The State Department has not announced an itinerary. Egyptian officials have said Bessmertnykh will arrive in Cairo on Friday and probably meet with Mubarak on Saturday.

The state-owned newspaper Al Akhbar and Al Ahram published front-page reports Tuesday that Cairo would host the superpower meeting.

Al Akhbar said the ministers will discuss a proposed regional conference to launch Middle East peace talks with participation of Israel, Syria, Egypt, Lebanon and a Palestinian-Jordanian joint delegation.

The conference would be co-sponsored by the United States and the Soviet Union. The Arabs, with some support from Baker, want Western European countries to play an active role. Israel has said it would consider

this in talks with European leaders.

But Israel opposes a United Nations role as demanded by Syria. In his remarks, Al Baz reiterated Cairo's support of a European role but did not mention the United Nations.

"The countries of the European continent have a fundamental role to play in the process to achieve a permanent and comprehensive peace in the region," he said. "This is because of the close connection between security and peace in Europe and security, peace and stability in the Middle East."

Baker's visit will be the fourth since the Gulf war ended Feb. 28. His tentative schedule includes Egypt, Syria, Jordan and Israel. Officials said other countries might be added.

In Moscow on Monday, a Soviet spokesman announced that Bessmertnykh starts his regional swing on Wednesday. His first stop will be Syria, followed by Jordan and Israel, from where he flies to Cairo.

Israelis kill Palestinian Hogg calls for trading land for peace

BETHLEHEM, Occupied West Bank (Agencies) — Douglas Hogg, Britain's deputy foreign secretary, said Tuesday that peace between Israel and the Palestinians should be based on U.N. resolutions that call for trading land for peace.

Hogg spoke with reporters after meeting for an hour with Bethlehem Mayor Elias Freij. Freij is among Palestinian leaders who have called for European participation in regional peace talks.

Israel has proposed a regional conference under U.S. and Soviet sponsorship and has been cool to any European role.

Hogg told reporters that "we are anxious to see talks starting." He said that U.N. resolutions 242 and 338 must be "the central part of any agreement." He added: "That clearly means security for the state of Israel and the political rights of Palestinian

people to be recognised."

The resolutions, enacted after the 1967 and 1973 Middle East wars, call for Israel to give up west-occupied land in exchange for recognition by neighbouring Arab states.

Asked about Israel's policy of continuing to move Jewish settlers to the occupied lands, Hogg said: "It is obviously a problem."

Freij decried the settlements, saying "how can there be any negotiations as long as Israel continues expanding existing settlements and starting new ones?"

In Gaza, Hogg toured a Palestinian refugee camp and said his country would try to help the families there.

He toured the Jebelati refugee camp in the occupied Gaza Strip and stopped to see the two-room concrete block house shared by the 10-member Mohsen family.

(Continued on page 5)

U.S. troops remain in Kuwait for 'time being'

IN SOUTHERN IRAQ (R) — U.S. Defence Secretary Dick Cheney flew to southern Iraq on Tuesday, stood on a sun-baked M-1 tank and told American troops they could finally go home.

"Well done," he said to cheers from 200 battle-clad soldiers. "I wanted to tell everybody how proud I was of you."

Cheney took time off from a six-nation Gulf tour aimed at improving regional defences to make a helicopter tour of blazing Kuwaiti oil wells. He landed eight kms inside Iraq to tell troops they would leave within days.

He told reporters earlier on Tuesday that the last occupying U.S. troops would be out of Iraq within 48 hours as U.N. peacekeeping troops took over a buffer zone between Kuwait and Iraq.

Cheney also said U.S. combat air patrols had stopped over southern Iraq as of Monday night but about 5,000 American troops would remain in Kuwait for the time being.

zone here within the next couple of days to get back into Kuwait and shortly after that you will be going back home," he said.

Cheney, who held talks with Kuwaiti Defence Minister Sheikh Ali Sabah Al Salem Al Sabah earlier in the day, later flew to the United Arab Emirates (UAE) for similar defence talks on Tuesday evening with UAE President Sheikh Zaid Bin Sultan Al Nahayan.

Cheney began his four-day Gulf tour to discuss post-war defences with a visit to Saudi Arabia on Monday. He will fly to Oman, Qatar and Bahrain on Tuesday before returning to Riyadh on his way home on Thursday for a final meeting with Saudi King Fahd.

Although Cheney has been reluctant to discuss any agreements reached with Gulf leaders, he told reporters earlier that increased Gulf security might include a larger U.S. military presence, more arms sales to regional states and joint war games.

Iraq reports 'positive atmosphere' at autonomy talks with Kurds

President Saddam calls for trial of 'officials'

BAGHDAD (Agencies) 8 Secretary veiled talks Tuesday between the Iraqi government and Kurdish rebels expected to iron out details of an agreement that would give the Kurdish north autonomy in exchange for ending the revolt against the Iraqi regime.

The official Iraqi news agency said Izzat Ibrahim, vice chairman of the Revolutionary Command Council, met with the Kurdish delegation headed by Masoud Barzani, leader of the largest opposition movement the Kurdish Democratic Party.

"The two delegations discussed the means of promoting positive dialogue to guarantee Iraq's unity and stability, and the dialogue was conducted in positive atmosphere," INA said.

Other senior Iraqi officials present were Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz, Interior Minister Ali Hassan Al Majid and Saadi Mahdi Saleh, speaker of the National Assembly, or parliament, and a member of the regional command of the Arab Baath Socialist Party, said the agency.

Soldiers at the Rashid Hotel, shooed away television reporters attempting to interview Barzani. The Kurds were believed insisting on three key points: including the major oil centre of Kirkuk in their autonomous region, having free election throughout Iraq and getting European or United Nations guarantees of the agreement.

President Saddam Hussein has promised free elections.

But Aziz said Monday no quick solution was expected in the negotiations.

In an interview with Western reporters ruled out ceding the oil-rich territory of Kirkuk. It produced 800,000 barrels of Iraq's pre-war OPEC quota of 3.1 million barrels daily.

Kurdish demands for international guarantees for any agreement reached with the govern-

ment were another major sticking point.

Aziz said the Iraqi government opposed any sort of guarantees, saying it would be outside interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Kurds have said they need such interference in Iraq's internal affairs.

Kurds have said they need such guarantees because several previous autonomy agreements were only partly fulfilled.

Just as during five days of discussions last month with a delegation headed by Jalal Talabani, the leader of the other major Kurdish faction, the Patriotic Union of Kurdistan, secretary surrounded the talks. Talabani announced April 24 that Saddam had agreed to expanded autonomy for Iraq's 3.5 million Kurds.

Kamal Fasad, a spokesman for the Iraqi Kurdistan Front in Damascus, Syria, said he expected the talks would last through the week.

Imposed on Iraq after Iraq invaded Kuwait last Aug. 2.

The council's sanctions committee has authorised the release of frozen Iraqi assets to allow Baghdad to pay for essential imports, but a ban on oil exports still stands.

Iraq, seeking to show it is returning to normal, had started an all-out drive to repair war damage to power stations, oil refineries, telecommunications and bridges.

Power supplies have been restored in most parts of the country and petrol, rationed during the war, is again freely available at normal prices.

Bernander said recovery has been faster than expected immediately after the Gulf war, when an official U.N. report said Iraq had been bombed back to the pre-industrial age.

But health remained a problem because of difficulties with water

supplies and sanitation.

In the city of Kut, south of Baghdad, the authorities were pumping untreated water from the Tigris river into the local system. Iraq was unable to import treatment chemicals such as chlorine because of sanctions, Bernander said.

The U.N.'s own relief operations in Iraq cover help with basic services crippled in the Gulf war and humanitarian aid for returning refugees, mostly Kurds and Shiites who fled when Iraqi troops crushed uprisings in the north and south.

Bernander said a U.N. appeal for \$400 million to help refugees on the borders with Turkey and Iran and another \$178 million for displaced people inside Iraq had met "a pretty dismal" response.

The U.N. had started setting up humanitarian centres and relay stations in Iraq for returning refugees but the U.N. strength in the field was "still pretty weak."

Soviet Union still powerful - Gorbachev

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday the Soviet Union is not going to disappear as a superpower, despite its current crisis.

"We should all proceed with the premise that the Soviet Union does exist — that it will continue to exist — that it is a powerful state — and it will continue that way," said Gorbachev, fresh from receiving renewed support from French President Francois Mitterrand.

Gorbachev's insistence came against a background of triumph and failure in recent weeks. His recent agreement with nine of the 15 Soviet republics has the potential to preserve 90 per cent of the nation. But in his trip to Tokyo, he was treated as the leader of a nation in need of help rather than the president of a feared superpower.

Speaking in a joint news conference with Mitterrand

following several hours of private meetings at a government dacha outside Moscow, Gorbachev said his country was going through a crisis, "but we must pass through it."

"I would agree that we are charting a new course of perestroika in extremely adverse weather, in a storm. The instruments are out of order and the crew is not as united as it should be," Gorbachev said.

But "the ship is following the charted course — perestroika," he emphasised, referring to the restructuring of society.

Mitterrand said Gorbachev is facing major problems, but he came down solidly on the side of the beleaguered Soviet leader.

"It is impossible to make a revolution so deep without running certain risks," Mitterrand said, adding: "I'm appreciative of people who take on the burden of power."

Amnesty urges Africans to end death penalty

LONDON (R) — Amnesty International urged African governments on Wednesday to abolish the death penalty.

The London-based human rights group said that while some African countries had stopped executing convicts or were about to remove the death penalty from the statute book, thousands were still being condemned to death, many without trial.

"Hundreds of people are still killed or condemned to die by their governments in dozens of African countries each year," Amnesty said in a report.

"Each year, hundreds and sometimes thousands of people in Africa are executed without having any sort of trial — people living in opposition areas or suspected of supporting rebels," Amnesty said.

The report cited the case of Chad, where former President Hissene Habre was said to have ordered the execution without trial of 300 political prisoners the day before he fled the country

last December.

It added: "Amnesty International is calling on everyone in Africa, particularly leaders and others who influence public opinion, to think deeply about the use of the death penalty and to work towards its abolition throughout the continent."

Namibia, Sao Tome and Principe and Mozambique abolished the death penalty last year, Amnesty said, while Angola and Guinea Bissau were considering doing so. Executions had virtually been abolished in eight other countries.

In South Africa, where more than 100 people were hanged in most years during the 1980s, only one person was executed last year, when the law was changed to make the death penalty no longer mandatory in a case of murder.

But against that, many African countries continued to execute people, frequently after unfair trials or because of their political opinions.

Ethiopia rebels say U.S. withholds famine-relief grain

KHARTOUM (R) — Ethiopian rebels accused the United States on Tuesday of cutting off grain supplies to famine-stricken northern Ethiopia.

They said the U.S. move, undertaken for political reasons, threatened emergency supplies of food to millions facing starvation in the region.

Relief officials from the two main rebel groups said Washington was trying to put pressure on the rebels to join peace talks with the Ethiopian government and end civil war.

"The U.S. is trying to use relief food as a means of political pressure. Otherwise, there is no reason for the shift at a time when the international community has recognised the seriousness of the drought," an official of the Relief Society of Tigray

(REST) said.

U.S. National Security Council Official Robert Frasure last week urged leaders of the rebels groups in Khartoum to join peace talks with the Addis Ababa government.

U.S. grain used to be taken into rebel-held parts of northern Ethiopia by truck from Port Sudan.

But REST and the Eritrean Relief Association (ERA) said no U.S. food had arrived this year from Port Sudan.

Up to 2.5 million people in the north are supplied by the cross-border operation — out of a total of six million Ethiopians facing starvation this year, aid agencies estimate.

Washington last year supplied about 100,000 tonnes of grain — 40 per cent of the total handled by the two relief organisations, their officials in Khartoum told Reuters.

"They do not clearly say that this represents a change of policy — they say it's a shift in routes," the REST official, Chekol Kidani, said.

The main Ethiopian rebel groups have offices here, and are allowed supply and transit facilities by the Sudan authorities.

Last February, the United States said it would divert aid shipments to rebel-held areas of Ethiopia to the Red Sea ports of Masawa and Assab.

Masawa has been held by the rebels for more than a year, while Assab is still in government hands.

But relief officials said no extra U.S. food had arrived in Masawa or Assab this year.

A U.S. official in Addis Ababa responsible for aid shipments to Ethiopia declined to comment on the issue, but said the American people would continue to give generously to Ethiopia.

"We are not going to stand by and watch Ethiopians starve," he told Reuters.

Diplomats said the U.S. plan was to supply food diverted from Port Sudan to a relief corridor out of Assab to reach areas controlled by the rebel Ethiopian People's Revolutionary Democratic Front (EPRDF).

Other food would be sent to Masawa where the United Nations began shipping 20,000 tonnes a month last January.

But relief officials say the capacity of Masawa is already overstretched, and to ferry into northern areas east of Eritrea via Masawa would mean passing through two battlefronts.

The United Nations distributes this food equally between government — and rebel-held areas.

Purchase of grain from areas of surplus production within rebel-held Ethiopia are also an

important part of the relief programme, officials said.

But only four million dollars — or 15 per cent of the funds aid agencies say are required this year — have been given by foreign donors, REST figures show.

The Assab relief corridor, known as the Joint Relief Programme (JRP), was disrupted in April when the government arrested drivers suspected of being rebel sympathisers.

As a result, only 3,500 tonnes reached rebel areas along the corridor, REST said.

Diplomats said the Addis Ababa government might try to manipulate the JRP to score



ETHIOPIA REELS UNDER DRAUGHT: Photo shows a boy standing near a donkey that has succumbed to the famine and barren earth devoid of any vegetation.

political gains over the rebels or force them into peace talks.

EPRDF rebels advanced to within 105 kilometres of Addis Ababa last month and now surround the Ethiopian capital on three sides.

The group says it wants to overthrow the government of President Mengistu Haile Mariam and set up a broad-based administration.

The secessionist Eritrean People's Liberation Front (EPLF) wants a referendum on the future of the Red Sea province of Eritrea, and has advanced within 50 kilometres of Assab, the lifeline to the capital.

WAR CHILD: A child carries a Kalashnikov rifle in Afab, Ethiopia as the battle rages between Ethiopian government and Eritreans continues.

Israeli movement planning extensions of settlement

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israel's settler movement is planning several new extensions around the Jewish enclave of Kiryat Arba in the occupied West Bank, a spokesman said Monday.

Noam Arnon, spokesman for the Gush Emunim settler movement, said on Israeli army radio that three additions to Kiryat Arba, near the Arab town of Hebron, are being coordinated with Israel's government.

"Of course it is coordinated. The fact is that we have a patriotic government which is interested in the settlements and advances them. The timing is of course set by government institutions, therefore Gush Emunim... is in contact with proper ministries," he said.

The announcement of more settlement expansion came as U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker announced he would make another trip to the Middle East to try to press for an opening of Israeli-Arab peace talks.

U.S. policy calls for Israel to return the occupied lands in exchange for peace, and two settle-

ments established by Gush Emunim on the war-won land during Baker's previous Middle East shuttle in the past month raised American anger.

The occupied West Bank and the Gaza Strip were captured from Jordan and Egypt in the 1967 Middle East war and are home to 1.7 million Palestinians. About 100,000 Jewish settlers have moved to the occupied territories since 1967.

In announcing the expansion, Arnon said: "There are... empty hills in the area here, which have never been settled by a man before. They are earmarked for the expansion of Kiryat Arba and the creation of new neighbourhoods."

Arnon said settlers have started putting down the infrastructure in the areas of Givat Mamre and Givat Avot adjacent to Kiryat Arba and would start similar work soon in the Mt. Manohah area.

The Mt. Manohah site is some three kilometres from Kiryat Arba, and Israeli news reports have said it is earmarked for a new settlement called Ramat

Anat.

But the settlers' and Israel's Housing Minister Ariel Sharon, a backer of the settlement expansion, say that Mt. Manohah site is not a new enclave but a long-planned extension to Kiryat Arba.

The army radio reported Monday that 20 mobile homes are waiting to be taken to Mt. Manohah. It described the Givat Avot site as just outside Kiryat Arba's fence.

On Monday, the settlements became the subject of a heated debate in Israel's parliament.

Leftist legislator Yossi Sarid, of the Citizens' Rights Movement, accused Sharon of being a "Jewish fascist, the most terrible combination," for encouraging settler expansion on occupied land.

Elyakim Haetzni, of the far-right Tebiya Party and himself a Kiryat Arba resident, in turn criticised the United States for talking to Syrian President Hafez Assad, whom he blamed for hundreds of deaths in border attacks.

"What is the weight of one settlement... against all this blood?" Haetzni asked.

Palestinian gives birth in handcuffs

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Israeli prison authorities apologised to a Palestinian detainee after a guard chained both her arms to the bed posts as she gave birth in an Israeli hospital, an official said Tuesday.

Intisar Elkak, 19, is serving a four-year sentence for carrying a firebomb in early 1990 as she walked past Jerusalem's Wailing Wall.

Several months after her arrest, Elkak went into labour and was brought from the Hasharim prison to Meir hospital in the Tel Aviv suburb of Kfar Saba.

Prison services spokeswoman Shulamit Meiri confirmed a report in the Maariv Daily Tuesday that Elkak was forced to give birth with her arms handcuffed to the bed last June 3. She bore a daughter, which she named Watan, Arabic for "homeland."

A Palestinian gynaecologist, Ahmad Tibi, first revealed the case last week at a conference on Middle East peace in Madrid.

"It is strange, and strange that the doctors didn't object to her being tied. I have never heard of such a thing happening, not in Israel or anywhere else in the world," said Tibi, reached by telephone.

Mrs. Meiri said the prison service "expressed our apologies" after the international Red Cross asked for an explanation of the case.

"It won't happen again," she said. "We regret what happened. There are exceptions such as this case when you have to be more sensitive."

She noted it was customary to keep security prisoners handcuffed even at hospitals, but often doctors insist the inmates be untied during treatment.

Mrs. Meiri said Elkak's mother was allowed to remain with her after the birth and the baby was getting free care at a government clinic.

MIDDLE EAST NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan to call in large banknotes in bid to fight inflation

NICOSIA (R) — Sudan has announced that it will recall larger-denomination banknotes on May 12 and issue new ones in an attempt to curb inflation. Military leader General Omar Hassan Al-Bashir said in a statement broadcast on state radio on Monday the move was "a fundamental and effective measure" to combat excessive liquidity which he blamed on the printing of money by former governments. Bank of Sudan Governor Al-Sheikh Sid Ahmad said on the radio, which was monitored by the British Broadcasting Corporation, the exchange would take place on May 12 at banks and additional exchange centres to be set up throughout the country.

Kurdish refugee number in Turkey scaled down sharply

ANKARA, Turkey (AP) — Authorities from Turkey and the U.S.-led coalition helping the Iraqi Kurds refugees have sharply reduced their estimates of how many fled to the Turkish border in March and April. A statement issued by the allied relief headquarters in Incirlik Air Base said the total number of refugees that fled to the Turkish border was about 335,000. A spokeswoman for the relief effort, U.S. Capt. Marcella Adams, said Tuesday the number included about 40,000 refugees who had gone home by Monday. In April, Turkish officials had put the number of refugees along the border at about 800,000. One and a half million other Iraqi Kurds were believed to have sought refuge in Iran after the collapse of their ill-starred uprising in March. But Turkish President Turgut Ozal said recently the refugees on the Turkish border numbered about 450,000. "There has obviously been a miscalculation," a Turkish government official admitted, speaking on condition of anonymity.

Dutch seek information in Tunis over slain diplomat

THE HAGUE (R) — The Netherlands has appealed to Tunisia for information on investigations into the death of a Dutch diplomat, shot in Tunis in February, a foreign ministry spokeswoman said Tuesday. "We have received no written word yet on the situation. We understand that no conclusion in the investigation has yet been reached but we want to know what has been done until now," the spokeswoman said. Robert Jan Akkerman, 40-year-old first secretary of the Netherlands Embassy, was shot dead by gunmen outside his home in a northern suburb of Tunis on Feb. 27. Dutch Ambassador Rudolf Mulder met Tunisian Interior Minister Abdallah Khalil on Saturday to press for an interim report on the killing and Tunisian Ambassador Tahar Sioud was called to the Dutch Foreign Ministry to discuss the matter last week, the spokeswoman said.

Polish pilots to spray crops in Iraq's Kurdish north

BAGHDAD (R) — Six Polish helicopter pilots arrived in Iraq Tuesday to spray crops in the Kurdish north under United Nations supervision, a senior U.N. official said. Bernd Bernander, coordinator of a U.N. relief operation in Iraq, said the pilots arrived in Amman on Monday and would travel to Baghdad by road or on a special flight before leaving for the northern crop lands. The United States has banned Iraq from flying aircraft north of the 36th parallel in an area covering much of Iraqi Kurdistan, saying the flights would hamper the return of Kurds who fled after Iraqi forces crushed an uprising in the region. Iraq complained that the blanket ban meant it would not be able to treat crops from the air and would lose much of its harvest. It has more than one million hectares (2.5 million acres) under wheat and barley in the area, about 80 per cent of its production. Bernander said the six pilots would fly Polish-made crop-dusting helicopters and apply insecticides for three weeks under the supervision of the U.N. Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO).

Bani-Sadr threatens to offer evidence of illegal arms

WASHINGTON (AP) — Former Iranian President Abulhasan Bani-Sadr has said he will provide Congress proof of illegal arms transfers by the United States to Iran if lawmakers decide to investigate allegations of a 1980 deal to delay the release of U.S. hostages from Tehran.

A Bani-Sadr said he has documents from a March 9, 1981, contract for the delivery of U.S. spare parts to Iran through Israel, as well as copies of other contracts for the delivery of sophisticated weaponry such as F-4 jet fighters.

The transfers would have contravened U.S. law banning trade with Iran after dozens of American diplomats were taken hostage in Tehran in 1979 and held for 444 days.

Bani-Sadr spoke in an interview at the start of a Washington visit to promote his book "My Turn To Speak" in which he charges that campaign officials of U.S. President Ronald Reagan promised Iran weapons if the hostages were held until after the 1980 elections. Reagan was elected, defeating incumbent

Jimmy Carter.

The hostages were in fact released moments after Reagan took office in January 1981, and Carter's inability to get the hostages back was believed to have led to his defeat.

Bani-Sadr, who was Iranian foreign minister and then president throughout the hostage crisis, is scheduled to meet later this week with lawmakers.

Democrats in Congress are considering whether to call a formal investigation of the charges against the Reagan campaign, which surfaced anew last month with the publication of an article by a former Carter White House official.

The official, Gary Sick, said he has found sufficient evidence of such dealings to merit further investigation.

President George Bush, Reagan's vice president, last week denied allegations that he took part in an October 1980 meeting in Paris at which details of the deal were worked out.

"But if he says nothing like this (secret deal) happened, then yes, he's covering up," said the exiled

Iranian, who lives in Paris.

When it took power in 1980, the Iranian government was desperate for American spare parts and weapons because its arsenal was U.S.-based and was rapidly being depleted by the Iraqi invasion that began in September 1980.

In 1981 Israeli officials said they had shipped spare parts to Iran, especially tyres for F-4s, but the United States said it wasn't involved. At the same time, however, U.S. officials had begun plotting what would be revealed in 1986 as an arms-for-hostages deal with Iran.

The deal, worked out with so-called moderates in the Iranian government, brought about the release of several Americans held by Iranian-backed militants in Lebanon, in return for American missiles.

The profits from the deal were to secretly go to the Contras, fighting the Sandinista government in Nicaragua.

Bani-Sadr said it was such dealings which were keeping "a bunch of uneducated, fanatic clergy" in power in Tehran. The

United States continues to portray President Hashemi Rafsanjani, with whom it dealt secretly over the hostages in 1980 and again in the mid-1980s, as a moderate — when he in fact is as radical as they come, Bani-Sadr said.

Bani-Sadr, who was fired from the presidency in 1981 and fled to the country, attributes his downfall to the secret dealings between the United States and the clerics who took control of Iran from secular leaders such as himself.

The soft-spoken Iranian, who makes his living from writing and from contributions by former supporters, rarely leaves his home. He hasn't been to the United States since before the revolution that brought his mentor, the late Ayatollah Ruhollah Khomeini, to power.

His book describes deep disillusionment with Khomeini and with his capitulation to the despotism of the clergy.

"I am saddened by the betrayal of what was a spiritual, humanistic revolution against the corrupt," U.S.-backed Shah Reza Pahlavi, he said.

No more free burgers in the Kuwait desert

KUWAIT (R) — Bad news for fast-food fans in the Kuwait desert — the U.S. army burger stall on the Kuwait-Basra highway closed down on Tuesday.

Since the U.S.-led allies drove out Iraqi troops at the end of February, Wolfburger has been serving free hamburgers and soft drinks to American soldiers, U.N. officers, journalists and Kuwaitis travelling between Kuwait city and the Iraqi border.

"It's like a mirage in the middle of the desert," a French photographer said.

Located just off the highway and few kilometres west of dozens of burning oil fields, the complex also offers a shop and a satellite telephone for American soldiers to call home, though these two services are not free.

Wolfburger, run by SRD Armoured Division, first brigade, consists of two wagons: a fully equipped kitchen and a stall where the burgers are handed out.

Sergeant-major Michael Schuller, who runs the stall, said it would close on Tuesday night as his unit was withdrawing from the area as part of a general U.S. troop pullout.

Schuller said establishing hamburger restaurants in the Gulf was the idea of the U.S. army's food adviser. He only knew his second name — Wolf.

He said the restaurant was essential to morale. "There are a few luxuries around here. A cold soda and a hamburger are all that we can offer these fine boys."

Pakistan denies secret imports of uranium

ISLAMABAD (R) — Pakistan Tuesday denied Indian claims that it had secretly imported uranium and accused New Delhi of lying.

"There is absolutely no truth in this thing. This is a plan to put doubts in the minds of people about Pakistan," a senior foreign ministry official said. "I think that this is basically a campaign of disinformation."

Pakistan has previously imported yellowcake — uranium oxide precipitated from the ore — for its civil nuclear programme, he said.

But it had always registered those purchases with the International Atomic Energy Agency, which monitors nuclear material, he added.

In Karachi, port officials and police also denied that a secret shipment arrived Sunday and roads northeast to Hyderabad were being closed while the nuclear material was moved by military trucks.

An Indian government source Monday said uranium of undisclosed origin was being sent to Hyderabad, 150 kilometres from Karachi, to avoid raising U.S.

concerns about Pakistan's nuclear weapons programme.

One European diplomat said he was aware of Indian concerns but did not know whether they were justified.

India and Pakistan, which have fought three wars since independence in 1947, are widely believed to either possess or be close to making nuclear weapons. India exploded a nuclear device in 1974.

Washington cut all aid to Islamabad last October after President George Bush failed to certify under U.S. legislation that

Pakistan was not trying to build a bomb.

U.S. officials said they detected that Pakistan had resumed enriching uranium beyond a promised threshold at its Kahuta nuclear facility east of Islamabad, a highly secret area from which foreigners are banned.

Pakistan has denied any intention to build nuclear weapons, but U.S. nuclear expert Leonard Spector told Senate hearings last November that Pakistan was far further down the road towards building a nuclear bomb than Iraq.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION	
Tel: 773111-19	
PROGRAMME TWO	
18:00	Children's programme
18:30	Documentary
19:00	News in French
19:15	French varieties
19:30	News in Hebrew
20:00	News in Arabic
20:30	After Henry
21:00	Our Home
21:30	News in English
22:30	Behaving Badly
PRAYER TIMES	
04:13	Fajr
05:39	(Sunrise) Dhuhr
12:22	Dhuhr
16:12	Asr
19:28	Maghreb
20:52	Isha
SCHOOLS	
St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish, Tel. 819749	
Assembly of God Church, Tel. 637285	
St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440	
De la Salle Church Tel. 661757	
Terrace Church Tel. 623566	
Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541	
Anglican Church Tel. 623383	
628543	
Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331	
Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261	
St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751	
Armenian International Church Tel. 685326	
Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295	
The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815917, 654932	
Church of the Nazarene Tel. 675691	
WEATHER	
Bullshit supplied by the Department of Meteorology.	
It will be relatively hot and some clouds will appear at different altitudes. Winds will be light and variable becoming at times northerly moderate. In Amman, winds will be northerly moderate and seas calm.	
Min/Max temp.	18 / 31

USEFUL TELEPHONE NUMBERS	
NIGHT DUTY	
AMMAN:	
Dr. Salim Daboubi	776751
Dr. Jamal Abu Baker	746426
Dr. Munzer Al Quraishi	776258
Dr. Salah Zayed	790677
First Pharmacy	661912
Ferdows pharmacy	778376
Al Asana pharmacy	637055
Naimouk pharmacy	623672
Al Salam pharmacy	636720
Yacoub pharmacy	649495
Shmeisani pharmacy	637660
EMERGENCIES	
Food Control Centre	637111
Civil Defence Department	661111
Civil Defence Immediate	630341
Rescue	199
Civil Defence Emergency	199
Rescue Police	192, 621111, 637777
Fire Brigade	891228
Blood Bank	775121
Highway Police	843402
Traffic Police	896390
Public Security Department	630321
Hotel Complaints	645810
Price Complaints	661176
Water and Sewerage	
Complaints	897467
Amman Municipality	
Complaints	787111
HOSPITALS	
AMMAN:	
Hussein Medical Centre	8130352
Khalid Maternity, J. Ann.	642816
Al-Khalid Maternity, J. Ann.	642412
Jabal Amman Maternity	623642
Malhas, J. Amman	626140
Palestine, Shmeisani	6641714
Shmeisani Hospital	669131
University Hospital	845845
Al-Munasher Hospital	6672279
The Islamic, Abdali	66612737

ARRIVALS	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
18:15	Jeddah (RJ)
18:15	Larnaca, Damascus (RJ)
17:45	Belgrade, Istanbul (RJ)
18:55	London, Paris (RJ)
19:15	Frankfurt, Vienna (RJ)
19:30	Madrid, Rome (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
12:00	Sanaa (IY)
15:00	Benghazi (LN)
22:00	Paris, Damascus (AF)
DEPARTURES	
Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)	
12:00	Amsterdam, New York (RJ)
12:30	Tripoli, Tunis (RJ)
13:00	London, Paris (RJ)
21:00	New Delhi (RJ)
21:45	Calcutta, Bangkok (RJ)
Other Flights (Terminal 2)	
09:15	Beirut (ME)
13:00	Sanaa (IY)
16:00	Benghazi (LN)
MARKET PRICES	
Upper/lower price in size per kg.	
Apple	550 / 500
Banana	540 / 480
Banana (Mukammal)	450 / 400
Beane	540 / 480
Broad beans	400 / 350
Cabbage	140 / 100
Carrot	250 / 200
Cauliflower	250 / 200
Cucumbers (large)	180 / 120
Cucumbers (small)	240 / 180
Dates	1000 / 900
Eggplant	260 / 220
Garlic	250 / 200
Grapefruit	400 / 350
Lemon	280 / 230
Lettrac (per one)	120 / 70
Marrow (large)	120 / 80
Marrow (small)	240 / 180
Onion (dry)	160 / 120
Onion (green)	170 / 120
Orange	220 / 160
Pepper (hot)	250 / 200
Pepper (sweet)	200 / 160
Potato	250 / 200
Raspberries	150 / 100
Sage	450 / 350
Spinach	140 / 100
Tomatoes	380 / 320

Home News

Jordan, France to discuss \$20m loan

AMMAN (J.T.) — A French government delegation is due here towards the end of May to discuss with Jordanian officials matters related to a protocol on a French loan to Jordan amounting to nearly \$20 million, according to an announcement by Minister of Planning Khaled Amin Abdullah.

The French government had earlier agreed to grant the loan to Jordan in order to back the country's balance of payments and to contribute toward the implementation of the Jordanian national development plan, the minister said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Initial agreement on the loan was originally signed in Paris by Jordan's Ambassador to France Awad Al Khaldi before the start of 1991.

The soft loan was earlier negotiated in the French capital by the Central Bank of Jordan (CBJ) Deputy Governor Michael Marto and the French ministry of finance.

The loan was granted under favourable conditions for the duration of 15 years and with a seven-year grace period at an interest rate of 1.5 per cent.

According to an announcement in Paris, the loan, which is equivalent to 100 million French francs, was designed to help Jordan's balance of payments.

It said that it was financial assistance, representing France's

contribution to the country, as part of French aid to Middle East frontline states.

Following the Gulf war, the European Community (EC) decided on a \$1.8 billion aid to the three countries most affected by economic sanctions against Iraq, namely Jordan, Egypt and Turkey. Individual EC countries were to dispense the assistance half bilaterally and the other half through the EC budget.

In March this year, Finance Minister Basel Jarrah said that the Kingdom was expected to get more foreign aid than expected, to help repair the cost of the Gulf conflict.

He said that a \$180 million crisis fund, earmarked as separate from the 1991 budget, was still intact and to be used to repair the Gulf damage which devastated almost every sector of the national economy.

Mr. Jarrah told Parliament that all indications were that foreign aid inflows, pledged for 1991, would be received and would also allow the government to carry out projects listed in the crisis fund. Jordan based this year's budget on assumptions that it would get \$891 million in foreign grants and loans.

Mr. Jarrah said the Kingdom expected to receive up to \$1.8 billion in assistance this year.

Apart from the EC, Jordan has received substantial aid in loans and grants from Germany and Japan.



Her Royal Highness Princess Basma addressing the opening session of the Muta University seminar on role of academic institutions in promoting services for local communities (Petra photo)

Muta University debates role in south

KARAK (Petra) — Muta University Tuesday opened a two-day seminar on the role it is playing in developing the local community in southern Jordan and participants are expected to review 18 working papers dealing with all aspects of life in the south.

Addressing the opening session was Her Royal Highness Princess Basma who underlined the role of academic institutions in promoting services for the local communities in view of their great human potentials and skills.

These organisations, she said, can work out working plans, based on sound foundations and previous experiments, aimed at meeting the present and future needs of the local communities.

Dealing with the society's needs has a direct impact on the economic development of the country, said Princess Basma who is chairperson of the Queen Alia Social Welfare Fund (QAF) which caters to socio-economic projects aimed at developing rural regions of Jordan.

Universities' role in promoting socio-economic enterprises is no more a secondary one, but rather an essential and badly needed one in the Jordanian society, the Princess said.

Muta University President Awad Khleifat said the university was planning to carry out its work not only in the Karak Governorate, but also in Tafleh and Maan, and will strive to promote

socio-economic development in these regions.

The two-day meeting was organised by Muta University in cooperation with the Industrial Development Bank (IDB) and the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company (JPMC) whose main mines lie in the southern regions of the country.

The organisers said that the working papers tackled matters related to youth, education, culture, health, agriculture, social and industrial issues.

Speakers at the opening session including Abdullah Dumur, Karak Mayor, and university deans who emphasised the role of Muta University in promoting socio-economic development in southern Jordan.

Ministries cooperate in promoting, reviving tourism

AMMAN (J.T.) — In the course of its drive to promote domestic tourism and bring in foreign tourists to Jordan, the Ministry of Tourism is coordinating with other government departments, like the Ministry of Transport, in matters concerning transportation fares and passage of visitors at sea and air ports and land border posts, according to a senior official at the Ministry of Tourism.

The official told the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that Jordan was witnessing a revival of its tourism industry and such moves and coordination in transport matters were bound to promote the tourism industry.

According to the official, the ministry is now endeavouring to market Jordan in Western Europe, especially in Spain and Finland, in cooperation with tour operators in Jordan and abroad and local hotels and airline companies, including Royal Jordanian (RJ), the national air carrier.

Petra quoted Carol Hanna, who is in charge of marketing at

the Amman Marriott Hotel, as saying that Amman Marriott's contribution to the Ministry of Tourism's campaign to market Jordan abroad has increased.

Amman Marriott, she said, has extended an invitation to a group of senior tour operators from Italy to visit Jordan on May 15, with the purpose of helping promote tourist sites abroad, and expects a Spanish team of tourists to visit the country in July and August of this year.

Ministry of Tourism Secretary General Nasri Atallah last month revealed an ambitious plan to revive the tourism industry in Jordan in the wake of the Gulf war which greatly damaged the national economy and its various sectors, including tourism.

The initial stage of the programme entailed inviting 80 tour operators from 35 tourist offices and journalists from various European nations. They came to Jordan last month and toured different sites, like the Dead Sea, Petra and Aqaba.

Another team, from Finland, visited the country late last month

on a similar trip, and a 100 member team from Italy is coming to Jordan on May 17, also to tour the tourist sites and to write about the Jordanian treasures.

Mr. Atallah is now in England in the company of Her Majesty Queen Noor who Monday inaugurated a six-month exhibition at the National Museums and Galleries on Merseyside, in Liverpool.

The exhibition, held under the logo of "Jordan-Treasures from an Ancient Land," was expected, by Mr. Atallah, to attract some 150,000 visitors, who he said, would examine the best collection of Jordanian antiquities and folk art, including sculptures, pottery, tools, metals, glass, Jewellery mosaics and other artifacts.

Mr. Atallah said that these programmes were designed to brighten Jordan's tourist image abroad and to erase all the negative aspects which severely affected the tourism industry during the Gulf crisis.

He estimated the tourism industry's loss in income during the war at \$250 million.

Jordan, Yemen discuss energy cooperation

AMMAN (Petra) — Visiting Yemeni Deputy Minister of Planning and Development Mazhar Abdullah Su'aidi Tuesday visited the Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) to familiarise himself with its experience in the use of computers, planning, development, researches and studies.

Dr. Su'aidi met with JEA Director-General Mohammad Saeed Arafah and with senior JEA officials, and reviewed with them cooperation between Jordan and Yemen in the field of energy and the prospect of enhancing it.

JEA has recently carried out several projects in Yemen.

The Yemeni official Monday met with Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources Thabet Al

Taher and reviewed with him bilateral relations in energy-related fields and the possibility of exchanging expertise between the two countries.

The two also reviewed the experience of the JEA and the Natural Resources Authority (NRA) and their technical capabilities which can be of assistance to Yemen.

Mr. Taher lauded the distinguished brotherly relations binding Jordan and Yemen and stressed the need to enhance cooperation and coordination between the two countries.

The minister also expressed the ministry's readiness to provide technical assistance in the field of exploiting gas resources and generating electric energy in Yemen.

Libya to favour Jordan in trade

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Libyan government has taken a decision to give priority in trade to Jordanian products in appreciation of the Kingdom's pan-Arab role and in a bid to support the country's economy, according to Dr. Mustafa Al Za'idi, the head of the visiting Libyan delegation.

"Libya appreciates Jordan's national stands and its struggle along the longest confrontation line with the Israeli enemy to defend the Arab Nation," said Mr. Za'idi at a meeting with Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi.

Mr. Za'idi said he hoped the opening of Libyan markets to Jordanian products would usher in a new trend in bilateral cooperation that would serve as an example to be followed by other Arab countries.

Mr. Za'idi, who is accompanied by a delegation of govern-

ment officials and businessmen, said he hoped that Libya and Jordan would boost their cooperation in health, economy and trade.

Jordan's agricultural, pharmaceutical and industrial products are now dominating Libya's markets and it is hoped that such cooperation would continue and expand.

Discussion tackled, among other topics, free transfer of Libyan capital to Jordan for investment in various projects.

Mr. Lawzi said that Jordan needed to be backed, under the difficult circumstances it passes through, and was hoping to promote its cooperation with other Arab states.

Mr. Za'idi and his delegation also met with Speaker of the Lower House of Parliament Abdul Latif Arabiyat and with Parliament members with whom

he discussed pan-Arab and Islamic issues. Mr. Za'idi said that his country was promoting concerted Arab efforts to confront the colonial powers' onslaught on the Arab Nation, and Tripoli was raising the slogan of unity and peace among the Arab countries.

Mr. Za'idi reaffirmed the need to bolster Jordanian-Libyan cooperation in all fields.

At a separate meeting with the Liberal Bloc of the Lower House, Mr. Za'idi was briefed about the Jordanian democratic experiment and discussed the Palestine question.

The Libyan delegation's visit to Jordan was preceded by that of a team representing the private sector and businessmen in Libya who purchased Jordanian goods, mainly garments, and met with the chambers of industry and trade officials for discussions on bilateral trade.

Australia to help set up sheep fattening complex

AMMAN (J.T.) — A team representing Australia's Livestock and Meat Board Tuesday discussed with Minister of Agriculture Mohammad Alawneh the prospect of setting up a sheep fattening complex in Jordan to help meet the Kingdom's growing needs of lean meat.

The team discussed with the minister the prospect of setting up a joint complex which entails a quarantine palace, a slaughter house and a sheep feeding lot accommodating 100,000 heads of live sheep imported from Australia, according to the Jordan News Agency, Petra.

Discussion also dwelt on cooperation between Australian and Jordanian farmers and facilities that could be offered for the project by the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Alawneh pledged full government backing for the project

and said that his ministry would facilitate the implementation of the project and would offer technical services. He said, though, that further discussions were still needed with other ministries.

Members of the Australian team told Petra that the project would help meet the Jordanian markets' needs of live sheep and would leave a surplus for export.

Petra said that the Australian team had extended an invitation to the Ministry of Agriculture to send a team to Australia to examine the stockbreeding process there.

Ministry of Agriculture Secretary General Sami Al Sunnaa told the Jordan Times that the project would be a joint Jordanian-Australian venture which is still at the preliminary stage. He said that the two sides were conducting a feasibility study and no estimate of the cost of the project could be given at this stage.

Charity to aid Bangladeshis

AMMAN (Petra) — The Hashemite Jordanian Charity's Executive Committee discussed an executive plan to channel relief aid to the Bangladeshi people who were severely hit by cyclones that led to the death of tens of thousands of people and rendered millions homeless.

Monday's meeting of the Charity's Executive Committee followed His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan's recent contribution heralding the start of a fund-raising campaign for the people of Bangladesh.

The Charity opened the door for contributions to Bangladesh and had opened special accounts at the Jordan Islamic Bank and Housing banks to collect donations from the public.

In its meeting, the committee decided to set up special committees to receive relief supplies in preparation for their early dispatch to the cyclone victims in

Bangladesh, in coordination with local and international organisations.

The Charity had carried out a similar relief campaign in Sudan

and is currently carrying out one in Iraq, in line with its humanitarian mission to assist Arab and Muslim nations in times of disasters.

Jordan takes part in OIC committee meeting

AMMAN (J.T.) — Jordan is taking part in a meeting by a follow up committee set up by the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) that opened in Istanbul Tuesday evening.

Dr. Safwan Touqan, the Ministry of Planning's secretary-general, accompanied by a two-member team from his ministry, is participating in the meeting of the committee known as the standing committee for promoting economic and trade ties

among Islamic countries. The countries are bound to discuss the implementation of previous resolutions dealing with economic and technical cooperation among Islamic nations, Dr. Touqan said in a pre-departure statement for Istanbul.

The topics, he said, cover overall and substantial issues related to national economies, preferential treatment to Islamic countries, guarantees for exports from Islamic nations and other related issues.

Jordanian pharmacists stress Iraq's need for medicine

AMMAN (Petra) — Members of the Jordanian Pharmacists Association's delegation to Baghdad Ziad Abul Hummus and Adli Mansour, who returned from Baghdad recently, stressed that Iraq was suffering from a severe shortage of medicine and medical requirements.

They said in a press conference, held Tuesday at the association's premises here, that 75 per cent of Iraq's reserves of medicines, estimated at about \$300 million, were destroyed in the post-war incidents.

Mr. Abul Hummus and Mr. Mansour called on owners of factories and medicine stores in Jordan to provide assistance to Iraq through the committees formed for this purpose.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITION

- ☆ Art exhibition by Nazir Ismail at the French Cultural Centre.
- ☆ Art exhibition by Ahmad Nawash and Yasser Durweik at Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation.

FILM

- ☆ Film entitled "Zardoz" at the British Council — 5:00 p.m.

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Amman - Jordan

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Dr. Adhalla Malki

Economic Forum

What is capital 'flight'?

THE word "flight" in the title above was intentionally placed between inverted commas because, to the man in the street, it takes an ugly tone synonymous to a disreputable activity that amounts to a crime. Capital, that is foreign currencies, is thus envisioned as drugs or any other items whose exportation or importation is prohibited.

In technical terms, this is an outright misconception. Capital fleeing abroad goes into deposits with foreign banks or is used to buy shares, bonds, property, farms, factories etc. All these uses invariably constitute investment outlets. Investment is the basic and most genuine economic process.

Foreign exchange revenues accrue mainly from transactions like exports (of goods or services), loans and grants from the rest of the world. A beneficiary, say an exporter who received a certain amount of dollars, will be labelled as "smuggler" of foreign currencies if he chooses to keep these dollars abroad, say in an account in Switzerland. To escape this accusation, he is expected to hand the dollars over to his domestic bank which is supposed to sell them to the central bank which in turn will keep them in an account abroad and probably with the same Swiss bank.

Capital "smuggled" abroad is investment; it yields a return which accrues to the respective country, although not necessarily to the central bank. And no matter how long it stays abroad, this capital remains part of the foreign assets of the respective country; its yield is used to finance its imports of goods and services and, eventually, it

will migrate back to its native land to be used one day for financing the imports of that country.

Capital "smuggled" abroad will be redeemed back home only when the causes which frightened it away are eliminated. When that happens, not only indigenous capital will be retrieved but also capital from other countries will be attracted. A healthy investment climate stops capital flight. Investment climates are distorted by shortsighted economic policies which cost the country much more than they try to save. Foreign exchange controls are one destroyer of investment climates; aggressive tax policies like the ones Jordan has now are another butcher.

Capital flight was the talk of the town in Jordan during the past two years. It is estimated that Jordan now receives around \$100 million in way of return on the Jordanian capital which sought refuge in various world financial centres. If it were available to the central bank in 1988, 1989 and 1990, this capital would have been used to finance the imports of all sorts of goods and services and possibly public expenditures. It would have been consumed. This is not to suggest that investing capital abroad is better than investing it in the country. No. Value added calculations make investing national capital in the domestic market more profitable in national profitability terms. But it certainly suggests that in the presence of wrong economic policies capital takes refuge abroad as an alternative to being destroyed. In

this particular sense, capital flight is one mechanism through which the market tries to remedy devious economic policies.

Eventually, an individual who keeps his dollars abroad will use them, or their yields, to pay, for example, for a holiday, medical treatment in foreign hospitals or the expenses of schooling his son abroad (imports of services) or to finance the importation of a car, a fridge or clothes (imports of goods) etc. The central bank uses the dollars it keeps abroad to finance the importation of goods and services as well which include the same goods and services that the individual would finance from the dollars he already "smuggled".

An individual may use his foreign exchange holdings abroad to pay for the importation of capital goods, raw materials for his factory or essential foodstuffs. In this case, he uses his dollars in a way which is nationally as productive as the way a central bank does. If the central bank uses the dollars it acquires from the exporter to finance luxury imports, for example, while that exporter would have used the same (smuggled) dollars for importing a machine, it will be in the better interest of the country for those dollars not to be kept with the central bank.

The golden rule is thus what matters most is how the foreign exchange receipts of a country are used not who holds them. The second one is that capital flees abroad only when it is frightened away by erroneous economic policies and it flows voluntarily back when sound policies are adopted.

The saga goes on

IN SPITE of repeated denials by Kuwaiti authorities (and embassies), persecution of non-Kuwaiti nationals is still rampant in Kuwait. Amnesty International (AI), the highly respected human rights watchdog, has been sounding the alarm about the mistreatment of Palestinians, Jordanians and other non-Kuwaitis for the past three months. AI has spoken of killings, disappearances, torture of certain Arab and non-Arab groups at the hands of Kuwaitis, both private and official, on a scale that has become systematic and persistent. Lately Britain's Independent newspaper has come out with renewed reports confirming the continuing saga of gross and systematic human rights violations in Kuwait in spite of a temporary decrease a few weeks ago. The newspaper reported Monday that the mistreatment of Palestinians and non-Kuwaitis by military and paramilitary groups in Kuwait has picked up once again. "The trend of abuses," the daily quoted an unnamed Western diplomat, "was going down a couple of weeks ago but now it is escalating again."

Tragically, some Kuwaiti officials have attempted to justify the harassment and abuse of non-Kuwaiti nationals especially the Palestinians by drawing a parallel between the killing of Palestinians suspected of collaborating with the Israeli occupying authorities in the West Bank and Gaza and Kuwaiti "punishment" of Palestinians accused of having collaborated with the Iraqi occupying forces. As much as we and others in this world opposed the Iraqi occupation of Kuwait, we cannot accept the comparison between the two situations. It smacks of anti-Palestinianism, condones fascism and opens the door for accusations that the Kuwaitis behave as if they were the latter-day Israelis of the Arab World. The wave of killings, torture and arbitrary arrests in Kuwait has got to stop. The Emirate cannot correct a wrong by doing another wrong. This is not the kind of justice that the world expects from a country that has witnessed and experienced the bitter taste of occupation and annexation, albeit for only a short period of time. Magnanimity rather than vengeance needs to guide Kuwait's policy towards the non-Kuwaiti groups who were caught between the hammer and the anvil. We have said it before and we say it again that Kuwaitis and non-Kuwaitis who had committed crimes between August and April deserve to be identified, apprehended and brought to justice, as should be the case with any other period of time. But the administration of justice must be equal and fair and not arbitrary as it seems to be now. As the tribulations of Kuwait and its people have ended, or at least are ending, it is incumbent on Kuwaiti leaders to end the anguish and tribulations of other peoples residing there. After all those being persecuted in Kuwait could well turn out to be the same people who had contributed most to the construction and development of the once prosperous Emirate.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

An announcement by the U.S. administration that James Baker will soon embark on yet another tour of the Middle East region was sufficient cause for concern in Israel whose leaders showed explicit anger and dissatisfaction, said Al Ra'i daily Tuesday. The Israelis, said the paper, want to do all they can to prove to the Arabs that the Americans are not serious about their initiative, and also unable to find a solution to the Arab-Israeli question so that the whole issue will be frozen again indefinitely. We can be neither pessimistic nor optimistic about Baker's initiative, and we can only stand by and watch the events and hope that the U.S. administration's efforts would achieve results. We, of course, would like to see the American efforts achieving good results, and giving credibility to the so-called new world order which aims to put a fair end to all regional conflicts and world issues, the paper continued. Baker's return to the region reflects the U.S. administration's determination to ensure a settlement to the Arab-Israeli conflict; and in the light of Washington's actions vis-a-vis the Gulf crisis, we realise that the U.S. administration can achieve a settlement based on U.S. Security Council resolutions 242 and 338, the paper added. But, the paper said, it should be emphasised that peace cannot be lasting or just if it is imposed on a party which feels that the settlement did not ensure its legitimate rights.

Commenting in Sawt Al Shaab daily on Baker's coming tour, a columnist says the U.S. secretary's coming mission would follow two lines: One aimed at ending the Israeli-Palestinian conflict and the other to bring to an end the Arab-Israeli dispute in general. Sabah Ekor notes that in his earlier tours of the region, Baker held conflicting views which confused the American administration causing it to believe that a solution is far fetched. The writer says that as long as the Palestinians will be in the core of the coming negotiations and since the other Arab parties will be closely connected, there can be no alternative to close cooperation between the Palestinians and the Arab parties to help the American administration achieve a settlement because the U.S. administration could be exercising pressure on Israel this time. The writer notes that Washington could face failure in persuading Israel to withdraw its forces from Arab land and to succumb to the international community's will but it is important for Baker to hear one language and one concerted view from the Palestinians and the Arabs, the writer adds. He points out that following his earlier visits in the region, Baker said that he did not only face Israel's intransigence but also varying views from the Arab side. If the Arabs wish to see good results, Ekor adds, they ought to present Baker with a unified version, otherwise the Arabs would achieve nothing that can serve their national interests.

By Shimon Peres

THE Israel-Arab conflict is now entering a new phase, one marked by new strategic and economic characteristics. The change in the strategic arena is reflected, primarily, by the importance that must now be assigned to relationships between peoples, rather than borders between states.

The two burning security problems confronting Israel — knives and missiles — are not purely a matter of borders. In both cases, relationships between peoples are more significant than the nature of borders.

The range of strategic vision has also changed. It is inconceivable that the solutions to dangers that come from hundreds of kilometres away (missile range), should be concentrated within tens of kilometres (the distance from the border). The security problem today does not relate only to countries bordering ours, but also to those which have no common border with us.

The arms race has also changed. It now involves unmanned missiles which do not take into consideration distance or space. They can be launched from ground, sea or air, and are capable of carrying chemical warheads.

In the arms race of the future there will be more sophisticated chemical and biological warheads, perhaps even nuclear ones. One should not overplay the significance of the destruction of the production plants of these warheads. You can destroy the installations, but it is harder to destroy the knowhow behind them. It is possible to destroy, for example, a nuclear reactor; it is harder to discover the alternative for producing a nuclear option.

IN THE aftermath of the Gulf war, many states will invest great sums to acquire a new generation of weapons: stealth planes instead of current models; a fleet of expensive helicopters against ex-

isting tank brigades; sophisticated and expensive warheads installed on virtually every weapon.

The Middle East, including Israel, is facing a terrible choice: for weak economies to take on enormous defense expenditures, thereby endangering their existence, or to invest in their infrastructures and adopt a security balance, with the hope of peace.

While Israel should — and desires — to direct its resources primarily towards immigration absorption, it now must invest in an intelligence system capable of penetrating beyond the countries bordering us; this is an expenditure of a dimension we have not known.

The only partial consolation in this new situation lies in its being "a trouble shared." It is a new challenge for Israel, but also for its adversaries. The great majority of Arab economies are not wealthy, while Soviet arms largesse is over and gone.

So "a trouble shared" is really a double tribulation, arising from the cost of the military option, and the price of economic weakness. Today's economy cannot be rehabilitated and certainly not developed merely through pouring money into a shaky infrastructure.

TODAY'S STATE needs a national money-producing economy, not one that consumes money which isn't its own. Most countries are too small to establish a closed economy and the economic world is too competitive to be ignored. Markets in our times are more important than countries, and inventions more potent than borders.

The global economy determines the fate of a national economy — from the price of fuel to the means of communication. Even natural resources like water, transport routes, environmental conditions, are no longer linked to political frontiers.

DEALING WITH all these re-

sources on a regional scale could generate momentum that is not present in a local administration.

Take water for example. The Middle East suffers from a lack of water more than from any lack of territory. A number of important rivers, the Nile, the Jordan, the Euphrates and the Tigris, decide the agricultural fate of 13 countries, each of which is caught in the same bind: a growing population and diminishing sources of water.

Perhaps the next war will erupt as a result of the struggle over the distribution of water, and not necessarily over border conflicts. Water can be acquired by military or scientific means. Military methods mean war between states; scientific ones mean cooperation between them.

"Regional planning is possible only if the obstacle created by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is removed."

It is possible to save water and desalinate it through steam produced relatively cheaply from nuclear power units. These can be set up on borders between countries, under full international supervision, and outside capital and assistance from European and American industries can be mobilised for them.

And what applies to water is equally valid vis-a-vis tourism, energy, computerisation and ecology. If the Middle East wishes to shake off its backwardness and create for itself a new future, it must follow Europe's path: gradually building a common market, lowering protective barriers, dispersing the clouds of war, generating a feeling of col-

lective security both for investors and consumers.

The very act of building such an economic zone would endow the countries of the region with a momentum and scope hitherto unknown. In both great missions — preventing war and creating economic growth — it is possible and necessary to deal at the regional, not just the national, level. Braking the arms race, like increasing the sources of water, can be attained not through relating to existing borders but precisely by openness towards a new regional structure.

IT IS NOT grim deployments along political frontiers, but the nurturing of a new fabric of relationships between peoples living within them that will decide the fates of peace and development. However, regional planning is possible only if the obstacle created by the Palestinian-Israeli conflict is removed.

I knew from experience that it is impossible to engage in regional economic dialogue without our first proceeding to solve the Palestinian problem. And indeed, the time has arrived to solve this issue. And the solution can come about only politically, not militarily. The Palestinians cannot defeat Israel militarily, and any military decision by Israel would not be regarded as a final decision.

The Palestinians must understand that there will be no solution unless they take Israel's legitimate security needs into account. And Israel must understand that without relating to the legitimate rights of the Palestinian people, there will likewise be no solution.

For Israel's defence needs, there is a territorial expression; for the legitimate rights of the Palestinians, there is also a territorial expression. And therefore there is no escaping a territorial compromise. Israel needs, for its defence, a secure border, security

zones and the demilitarization of areas conceded. And if it does not want to rule over another people against its wished forever, it must give up control both of the residents and of the territory they live on.

WHENEVER I hear that we must not "concede" even one inch of territory I ask myself whether giving up territory is what is really meant — or is it the impression of conceding, as though we were its masters? To whom, in fact, does the Gaza Strip belong, all 350 square kilometres of it? To the 700,000 people living in it, or to the politicians who proclaim they own the strip?

For, actually, Israel has been more policeman than owner. And, one can say with certainty: it is better that our citizens be construction engineers in the Middle East than policemen patrolling in Gaza.

To ensure Israel's security requirements and the Palestinians' legitimate rights, we must answer an additional question: with which party is it preferable, possible and necessary to conduct negotiations in order to reach a permanent solution? And between negotiating with a purely Palestinian delegation or a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, logic leads to a preference for the combined Jordanian-Palestinian solution.

It is not obstinacy to regard the populations of Jordan, the West Bank and Gaza as having greater similarities than differences; the Jordan River is not deep enough to turn into a knife-blade serving to cut one piece of territory into three slices.

Most of Jordan's population are Palestinians; the residents of the West Bank are Jordanian citizens, and Jordan has also distributed tens of thousands of passports to residents of the Gaza Strip. The existing difference between the Beduin in Jordan and

the Palestinians there is smaller than that between the Czechs and the Slovaks, the Flemings and the Walloons, or the Protestants and Catholics in various countries.

JORDAN IS an existing state. It has an army. There is therefore no need to set up another state, another army. The areas which would accrue to a federal or confederal framework could stay demilitarised — essential for the security of Israel, which views the Jordan River as its defence line.

It must be realised that Israel will not return to the 1967 borders and will not give up reunified Jerusalem as its capital; and if we also consider Gush Etzion and various sectors of the Jordan Valley required for Israel's defence, it will be impossible to delineate a map on the West Bank containing another state, one which would represent a problem both for Israel and for Jordan.

The Palestinians and the Jordanians know in their hearts that the correct solution is establishing a federation or a confederation which will comprise three elements: Gaza, the West Bank and Jordan. It would be sufficiently large to serve as a serious state ensuring its own existence and the peace of its neighbour. And if this is the preferred solution, a Jordanian-Palestinian delegation, with which negotiations for peace can be started, should be composed now.

When political negotiations on a solution of the Palestinian problem begin, it will be possible to start discussing the regional issues: limiting armaments and economic development.

These matters will enable so ancient a region to enter the new universal era and take its deserved place, one which it earned in the past, lost in the present, and can re-attain in future.

The writer is the leader of the Labour Party and a former premier. This article is reprinted from the Jerusalem Post.

Yemen weathers the storm

By Liest Graz

YEMEN has neither collapsed nor split apart under the blows it has suffered as a result of the Gulf war. As it prepares for the constitutional referendum to ratify the unity proclaimed last May, it seems to be weathering the storm surprisingly well, while its international policies — of unusually high exposure as the only Arab member of the U.N. Security Council and an apparent supporter of Iraq — baffle and sometimes annoy erstwhile friends.

Had the declaration of unity between the former Yemen Arab Republic (North) and the People's Democratic Republic of Yemen (PDYR, South) not been pushed with what, at the time, looked like unseemly haste, it probably would not have happened for a long time. The two-year intermediary period (if the constitution is approved) to May 21, 1992 has kept politically minded Yemenis so busy that it has served as a lightning-rod for the passions created by the Gulf crisis.

Political currents

Political liberalisation, which began on both sides before unity, is in a hyperactive phase. More than 40 political parties have mushroomed and each publishes at least one periodical. (More newspapers and magazines per head are sold in Yemen than in any other Arab country). The transition is being handled with surprising smoothness by a coalition government made up of President Ali Abdullah Saleh's

Peoples General Congress and the Yemen Socialist Party (YSP).

The three main parties each remain rooted in Yemeni politico-geographic reality. Ali Abdullah Saleh's considerable political acumen has enabled him to make a broad-based party out of what was originally not much more than a military clique. The Yemeni Socialist Party ruled the South as the Communist Party practically from independence in 1967 (with internal schisms, including the blood-bath of 1986) to unity; it seems to be doing a better job of democratising itself and learning to share power than most Communist parties in other parts of the world. Marxism never sat easy on Yemen.

The third current is the conservative tribal-Islamic People's Reform Party (Al Islah), officially created by Sheikh Abdullah Al Ahmar in January. It is typically Yemeni in that, during the Gulf crisis, Sheikh Abdullah could simultaneously deplore Ali Abdullah Saleh's pro-Iraqi positions and create a new party in partnership with the Muslim Brothers, who supported Iraq despite their links with Saudi Arabia. Most of the 37 other parties will probably disappear rapidly, with the possible exception of the Nasserites (divided into six separate currents at the moment) and the Ba'athists, some of whom may switch allegiance from Iraq to Syria.

None of the parties is overtly opposed to unity. The questions arise with what sort of Yemen should come out of unity. Members of Al Islah accused the YSP

of wanting to make all of Yemen "a Marxist state, aided and abetted by the Popular Congress."

Translated, that means Al Islah is worried about secularism, anything from women's rights (many women may be veiled, but they vote, go to university and hold jobs outside their homes) to the Aden brewery. For the conservative tribesmen, the inclusion of the YSP in the government and administration has been hard to swallow. The incredible shambles that the PDYR had become at the end of its life belied the presence of many competent administrators; their redeployment throughout the country has generated both admiration and resentment.

Return of the exiles

All parties fret about Yemen's complex relations with Saudi Arabia. Yemen has been trying to get the "lost provinces" of Asir, Najran and Jizjan back for decades. Over one million Yemenis — north and south — were working in Saudi Arabia before August 1990 and their remittances provided a sizeable portion of Yemen's foreign exchange. Saudi Arabia, despite mollifying official statements, was far from enchanted about having a strong, unified Yemen, with 12 million inhabitants, and new confidence from some oil revenue. Yemen stood up to Saudi Arabia over the Gulf crisis; while protesting neutrality, both at the Arab League and at the United Nations, it appeared to take a pro-Iraqi stance.

Saudi Arabia was not amused. Whether it was as a result of that

policy (as with that of Jordan and the PLO) or whether, as has been suggested, Saudi Arabia was looking for a subtle way to bring pressure even before the invasion of Kuwait, the Yemeni attitude provided an excuse. The Saudi reaction was to withdraw most privileges accorded to Yemenis in the kingdom; according to Amnesty International, there were also large numbers of arbitrary arrests with serious mistreatment. Visas were cancelled, the right to work independently, without a sponsor, was withdrawn. At least 700,000 Yemenis returned to what most observers thought would be an economic and social catastrophe.

Their return caused less havoc than expected. Yemen is still predominantly agricultural and long absences were forgotten as the fabric of family and of village. In San'a the consequences were more marked, including a 30 per cent fall in the exchange rate of the rial. The total picture is not, according to reports from the International Labour Organisation and others, nearly as dire as had been feared. Only a few thousand returnees remain in the direct care of the Yemeni Red Crescent.

Relations with the Saudis are on the mend, quietly. Over the last few weeks, Yemenis have begun to trickle back. Some had left without their passports being stamped "no return." Others, in the service sector, proved indispensable. Saudi Arabia's "pro-

ject bureau" in San'a, closed for a few months, has reopened. The threatened boycott of Yemeni Airways was averted; indeed the Saudi government (which holds a 49 per cent stake) has promised to pay its part in the modernisation programme linked to the absorption of Aden's Alyemda airline. Newspapers on both sides are still stinging mud, but money being coming across the border to the tribal areas is going a good way toward compensating for the loss in remittances.

The Yemenis regret that other countries — particularly the United States, which has announced a deep cut in aid — do not understand the delicate balance of their politics as well as the Saudis seem to do. Yemen fits few stereotypes and its fierce independence has served it well in the past; it was one of the world's champion aid-recipients and no one's poodle. The odd relationship with the Iraqi Ba'athists (Yemen was a member of the late Arab Cooperation Council and host to a considerable number of Iraqi advisers) was at least as much the product of geography as of temperament. The complex relations with Saudi Arabia, once again, made it seem desirable to seek a counterbalance with the strong and at least nominally republican Iraq on the other side of the kingdom.

Integration into peninsular structures

The Gulf Cooperation Council is going through a period of internal soul-searching. Some mem-

bers of the Council favoured including Yemen (then both Yemenis) years ago, but the idea floundered on two major obstacles. The first was that Iraq clearly wanted to join the GCC only to wage war with Iran was over. To keep Iraq at bay, the answer was "sorry, the GCC is a closed club" — which meant that nothing could be done about Yemen. The second reason involved Saudi Arabia and hesitations about letting numerous Marxists or, at best, republican foxes into the monarchist chicken coop.

Once Oman had made its peace with the PDYR in 1985 and even more so as the PDYR shed its Marxist mantle, it became Yemen's main advocate in the GCC. It still is. Omanis now say that Saddam's aggression at least showed that they, the rich Gulf countries (of which Oman is the least rich), could no longer ignore their neighbours, poorer in money and richer in human resources. Logically, the first country with which to share should be Yemen. Many people in the Emirates say the same thing, so do some Kuwaitis, who in general are far less angry with Yemen than with Jordan or the PLO. For most responsible people in all three, association with the peninsula's only country not in the GCC is a foregone conclusion; Yemen, of course, would be delighted. Whether Saudi Arabia, with whom the relationship is far more complex, can be convinced remains to be seen — Middle East International, London.

مكتبة من الأصل

A candle of mourning, a ray of hope

THIS year, the annual celebration of the Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement has a special significance: it is devoted to the protection of Victims of War. On 8 May, the birthday of the founder of the Movement, Henri Dunant, people around the world will "light the darkness" to evoke the memory of millions of innocent human lives lost in the never-ending armed conflicts between and within nations and to reinvigorate their determination to contain the damage caused by wars.

The simple gesture of lighting a candle would symbolise both "mourning" and "hope" mourning for those who fell prey to man's inhumanity to man, and hope for those struggling to protect human lives through the application of international humanitarian law. It is ironic that just as humankind has over the last decades tried to perfect lethal weapons of war, it has also succeeded in elaborating binding laws to save human lives. The term "international humanitarian law" is a contradiction in itself because war is illegal in international law; to "humanise" it through law is to admit that illegality will continue to prevail.

What makes the celebration of 8 May particularly poignant is the fact that during this century, the number of innocent civilians dying during armed conflicts, whether international or internal, has risen much higher than the combatants. It can now be truly asserted, on the basis of statistics, that during war, soldiers are better protected than civilians.

During the First World War, out of seven persons who died, only one was a civilian. During the Second World War, 51 mil-

lion people were killed of whom 34 million were civilians; in other words, two out of three who died were civilians. In the armed conflicts of recent years, nine out of ten who die are civilians, mostly women, children and the elderly. In an age when wars are fought by remote control, when computers are more important than courage and when weapons of mass destruction which kill indiscriminately are easily accessible, it is not surprising that those paying the price for war should be mostly the innocent civilians.

It has been estimated that since the end of World War II in 1945, there have been some 150 armed conflicts around the world claiming over 20 million lives. Even today, judging from the involvement of the International Committee of the Red Cross, there are 38 conflicts raging in every continent although the media usually cover only a few.

Considering that during the last forty-five years, there were only twenty-six days when no fighting was going on anywhere in the world, one cannot help wondering whether war is not a normal state of relations between men and nations. Man has made great advances in knowledge but has grown in wisdom? In terms of causes of armed conflicts, has mankind made progress since the

religious wars of the Middle Ages? In over 3,400 years of documented human history, only 250 have been years of total peace. If there is anything to learn from history, it is that if the root causes of conflict are not addressed, durable peace remains elusive. In this nuclear age when the very survival of humankind is at stake, is it not time that people around the world reflect, individually and collectively, on how to nurture those impulses within us which help us thrive and which do not lead to death and destruction?

The purpose of international humanitarian law as elaborated principally in the four Geneva Conventions of 1949 and the 1977 Protocols updating them, is to alleviate suffering and to limit as far as possible the effects of armed conflicts for all men whether or not they have an active part in the fighting. The basic approach is pragmatic: humanitarian law neither explains war nor pacifies it. But through humanitarian intervention in the armed conflict, and by prohibiting unnecessary suffering as well as acts which are not dictated by military necessity, it tries to contain the damage and to promote a certain spirit of peace. This is why it is so important that not only soldiers but also civilians

and public at-large should learn and be fully aware of the fundamental rules of humanitarian law. Although these have been codified with great technical details, the essential can be reduced to the following seven principles:

- Persons not fighting and those who do not take a direct part in hostilities are entitled to respect for their lives and physical and moral integrity. They shall in all circumstances be protected and treated humanely without any adverse distinction.
- It is forbidden to kill or injure an enemy who surrenders or who is not fighting.
- The wounded and sick shall be collected and cared for by the party to the conflict which has them in its power. Protection also covers medical personnel, establishments, transports and supplies. The emblem of the Red Cross or Red Crescent, is the sign of such protection and must be respected.
- Captured combatants and civilians under the authority of an adverse party are entitled to respect for their lives, dignity, personal rights and convictions. They shall be protected against all acts of violence and reprisals. They shall have the right to correspond with their families and to receive relief.
- Everyone shall be entitled to

benefit from fundamental judicial guarantees. No one shall be held responsible for an act he has not committed. No one shall be subjected to physical or mental torture, corporal punishment or cruel or degrading treatment.

Parties to a conflict and members of their armed forces do not have an unlimited choice of methods and means of warfare. It is prohibited to employ weapons or methods of warfare of a nature to cause unnecessary losses or excessive suffering.

Parties to a conflict shall at all times distinguish between the civilian population and combatants in order to spare civilian population and property. Neither the civilian population as such nor civilian persons

shall be the object of attack. Attack shall be directed solely against military objectives.

One of the most serious problems facing the Red Cross Movement and humanitarian law is that nowadays most wars are undeclared and most armed conflicts are internal to countries. The problem of sovereign prerogatives of states is often faced by those who want to help. Humanitarianism becomes hostage to politics and the inadequacy of existing international law becomes evident.

It would be desirable that politicians and policymakers build upon the existing edifice of humanitarian law and add to it what global situation and circumstances call for. The most suitable way might be to develop a "code of conduct" consisting of

principles which must be respected in all circumstances. In this connection, the ethical aspect, based on enlightened self-interest, must be prominent in order to ensure harmony between law and justice for, as Albert Camus said, "What is right must not be wronged by the very arms which are intended to defend it."

Jordan has had the experience of armed conflict in all its forms. The people of Jordan have had to bear great suffering not only because not only because of those who lost their lives or limbs in these conflicts but also by receiving large numbers of refugees and displaced persons. Jordan's economy has suffered due to armed conflicts in the neighbouring areas. And yet the people of Jordan have always known how to rise to the challenge and to

face difficulties with perseverance and tenacity. The celebration of 8 May is yet another reminder not only of past history but also of what can be done in the future to alleviate the suffering of our fellow human beings in times of conflict.

As we think of victims of war around the world and struggle for their protection, let us not forget that the ultimate objective is not to contain the damage of war, as humanitarian law tries to do, but to build durable peace. This can be done not through more arms but through greater commitment to peace both at individual and collective level. As the charter of UNESCO so eloquently proclaimed: Since war first begins in the minds of men, it is in the minds of men that defences for peace must be built.

Hogg

(Continued from page 1)

Neema Mohsen, 35, told Hogg that her family was getting help from the U.N. Relief and Works Agency, which aids Palestinians, since her husband was unable to get an army work permit to continue as a day labourer in Israel.

Mrs. Mohsen said the family asked about a year ago for U.N. help in building a bathroom or shower for their house, but that "until now we are awaiting help."

The house was furnished only with mattresses, some shared by her eight children. She complained that the corrugated metal roof leaked after damage she blamed on an army gravel-throwing machine. The army uses the machines to disperse protesters.

"We will try to help you and the others," Hogg told Mrs. Mohsen.

Hogg also met with UNRWA officials and had lunch with five Palestinian leaders from the Gaza Strip.

One Palestinian shot dead

On Monday Israeli security forces shot dead a masked, ax-wielding Palestinian youth in the occupied territories after he refused to stop when challenged, the army said.

A spokeswoman said paramilitary border policemen shot dead the youth in Tulikarem town in the West Bank. A second Palestinian had died after being shot by the army on Sunday in Tubas in the West Bank while organising a protest, she added.

Palestinians said the bodies of two Arabs killed by militants on suspicion of collaborating with Israel were found on Monday in Tulikarem and the nearby Nur Shams refugee camp.

Meanwhile Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir said Tuesday that chances of the Arabs accepting Israel were "starting to disappear" because of Saddam Hussein's survival of the Gulf war as Iraq's strongman.

Shamir's remarks to Dutch Foreign Minister Hans van den Broek came as U.S. Secretary of State James A. Baker prepared to visit the Middle East this weekend for another attempt at starting Arab-Israeli peace talks.

Van den Broek told Shamir he had detected a "certain change in tone" towards Israel when he visited Syria earlier this week, a statement from Shamir's office said.

Shamir dismissed the observation, saying "extremist countries apparently have an advantage, that whenever they show some sign of moderation, it immediately stirs enthusiasm" among western observers.

In the hour-long meeting, Shamir also suggested western leaders were to blame for a deadlock in peace efforts, saying it was because Saddam had remained in power in Iraq despite the invasion of Kuwait last August which precipitated the Gulf war.

He got in the way of somebody's war.



Nine out of ten casualties in modern warfare are civilians. The vast majority of its victims never wore a uniform or carried a gun.

In the so-called "post-war" period since 1945, at least 20 million people have died in over 100 conflicts. A further 60 million have been wounded, imprisoned, separated from their families and forced to flee their homes or their countries.

In over 30 armed conflicts, this human misery is happening now. Yet the Geneva Conventions — ratified by 104 states — lay down clear rules that all victims of war living under the darkness of conflict must be respected.

They have the right to protection from murder, torture, starvation and being taken hostage.

To focus attention on the plight of millions of civilians caught in the crossfire, the International Red Cross and Red Crescent Movement is launching a worldwide campaign to ensure that they get the protection and assistance to which they are entitled under international law.

No matter who. No matter where. No matter when.

We call on governments and combatants everywhere to respect the rights of all victims who get in the way of somebody's war. Help us to help them.



World Campaign for the Protection of Victims of War

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Financial Markets

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U.S. Dollar in International Markets NEW YORK TOKYO

Currency	NEW YORK	TOKYO
Sterling Pound	1.7110	1.7140
Deutsche Mark	1.7315	1.7305
Swiss Franc	1.4675	1.4655
French Franc	5.8595	5.8465
Japanese Yen	138.25	138.42
European Currency Unit	1.1865	1.1910

Eurocurrency Interest Rates Date: 7/5/91

Currency	1 MTH	3 MTHS	6 MTHS	12 MTHS
U.S. Dollar	5.87	5.93	6.06	6.50
Sterling Pound	11.75	11.43	11.25	11.12
Deutsche Mark	8.87	9.00	9.12	9.18
Swiss Franc	8.57	8.37	8.37	7.93
French Franc	9.06	9.12	9.18	9.25
Japanese Yen	8.00	7.81	7.62	7.37
European Currency Unit	9.54	9.43	9.43	9.50

Precious Metals Date: 7/5/91

Metal	USD/Oz	JD/Gm	Nickel	USD/Oz	JD/Gm
Gold	355.55	6.70	Silver	4.01	0.087

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 7/5/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
U.S. Dollar	0.6800	0.6840
Sterling Pound	1.1632	1.1702
Deutsche Mark	0.3925	0.3949
Swiss Franc	0.4635	0.4663
French Franc	0.1160	0.1167
Japanese Yen	0.4913	0.4942
Dutch Guilder	0.3483	0.3504
Swedish Krona	0.1099	0.1106
Italian Lira	0.0531	0.0534
Belgian Franc	0.01893	0.01904

Other Currencies Date: 7/5/91

Currency	Bid	Offer
Baharal Dinar	1.7500	1.7700
Lebanese Lira	0.0725	0.0735
Saudi Riyal	0.1800	0.1820
Kuwaiti Dinar	-	-
Qatari Riyal	0.1825	0.1840
Egyptian Pound	0.1900	0.2050
Omani Riyal	1.7500	1.7700
UAE Dirham	0.1820	0.1840
Greek Drachma	0.3400	0.3700
Cypriot Pound	1.4150	1.4550

CAS Indices for Amman Financial Market

Index	5/5/91 Close	6/5/91 Close
All-Share	114.60	115.99
Banking Sector	111.39	110.21
Insurance Sector	110.37	110.36
Industry Sector	118.78	119.07
Services Sector	123.95	123.96

UNCTAD head urges ties between eastern Europe and Third World

MANILA (R) — New ways must be found to strengthen links between developing countries and the rapidly adjusting economies of eastern Europe, the head of the United Nations trade organisation UNCTAD said Tuesday.

Kenneth Dazic, secretary-general of the U.N. Conference on Trade and Development, said the Third World must not be abandoned in the rush to provide capital for eastern Europe.

In a message read at the start of a three-day seminar on trading with eastern Europe, Dazic said the dramatic political and economic changes in the former Warsaw Pact area opened up new possibilities for international economic cooperation.

He said the shift of the former communist states to market economies stood out "as the major challenge to the multilateral institutions in this last decade of the century."

While it was important that eastern Europe was getting attention, the challenge of poverty in the Third World remained acute. "Side by side with these encouraging developments (in eastern Europe) is the continuing precarious situation of a large part of the developing world," Dazic said in his message to the conference.

"It is, therefore, also important to study and develop new means of strengthening economic cooperation between developing countries and central and east European countries," he said.

Portugal resumes privatisation drive

LISBON (R) — Portugal resumed its privatisation drive Monday with the sale of a major investment firm for a higher price than expected.

The Lisbon Stock Exchange said a group led by Portuguese industrialist Jose Manuel de Mello paid 15.57 billion escudos (\$104.3 million) for 95.47 per cent of nine million shares of Financiera Portuguesa-Banco de Investimento (SFP).

SFP, which was sold by tender on the stock exchange, had been valued at only nine billion escudos, although it was widely anticipated that the De Mello group would bid higher.

The sale was the first this year by Portugal's centre-right government, which is trying to slim down the bulky state sector built up after the 1974 left-wing revolution.

It temporarily suspended the privatisation programme in January, citing stock market uncertainty over the Gulf war.

De Mello's group, which included the Macau-based Fundacao Oriente of Carlos Monjardim, purchased an 80 per cent block of shares offered by the state to a single bidder and also snapped up most of the 20 per cent offered to small investors and company employees.

Foreigners were limited to buying a maximum shareholding of 33 per cent in the company, but that was the biggest stake offered to overseas investors in privatisations so far.

SFP has been controlled by the state since its establishment in 1969. Most other companies being privatised were seized in nationalisations after the revolution.

To prepare SFP for privatisation, authorities sold off its holdings in several companies, including the hotel group Lusotur and cellulose producers Soporcel.

De Mello and his family lost many of their vast holdings after the revolution. But he managed to remain at the helm of state-run ship repairs Lisnave and is now trying to build a strong financial group active throughout Europe.

Other privatisations planned for later this month include stakes in the influential newspaper Diario de Noticias, the shipping company Portline-Transportes Maritimos Internacionais S.A. and the state's remaining 51 per cent of insurer Alianca Seguradora S.A..

Other sell-offs are expected later in the year.

Since 1989, the government has sold off full or partial stakes in two banks, two brewers, a shipping company, a newspaper and two insurance firms.

Ecuador adopts austerity measures

QUITO (R) — Ecuador Monday adopted a series of economic austerity measures to counter the effects of falling oil sales, a senior government official announced.

The measures, which include a 15 per cent reduction in government spending, also opened the doors to possible privatisation of Ecuador's 163 state-owned companies.

"This is an unusual austerity measure aimed at balancing the public finances," Presidency Minister Washington Herrera told reporters at a news conference.

Last week the government announced that the nation's oil sales had dropped by nearly 20 per cent, and the price of Ecuador's most important export has fallen below official estimates of \$17 a barrel.

Herrera said the government of President Rodrigo Borja also would review all state-owned companies to study ways to "gradually reduce the size of the public sector... and achieve a more efficient management of the state companies."

However, he would not say if the government is willing to implement an aggressive privatisation programme. Borja, who has 15 months left in office, so far has only committed to selling off part of the state airlines Ecuatoriana de Aviacion.

The budget cuts will affect non-personnel areas including purchases of furniture, vehicles and equipment, as well as the elimination of vacant and new positions, Herrera said.

Sudan's leader orders currency change to harness price rises

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan's military leader General Omar Hassan Al Bashir has ordered a change of currency in an attempt to curb the free market and control inflation.

Bashir told state radio and television Monday night the measure was necessary to siphon off excess liquidity and stabilise prices. He blamed previous governments for flooding the economy with new banknotes.

Large denomination notes will be recalled on May 12 and new ones will be issued at banks throughout the country.

When Bashir seized power in a June 1989 coup, he pledged to salvage the economy which he accused previous governments of destroying.

However, drought, civil war in southern Sudan, and locust plagues have kept production low. The rise in the dollar's value continues to reduce the purchasing power of the Sudanese pound.

The current rate of inflation is estimated at about 200 per cent and prices are rising on an almost daily basis, Sudan is unable to service its \$13 billion foreign debt.

Bashir expressed concern at the amount of local currency being kept outside the banking system to buy dollars in the free market, which is not subject to government control.

Since September 1990 the government has allowed Sudanese with hard currency to import goods without controls.

In this market the dollar currently fetches about 70 Sudanese pounds, compared to an official rate of 4.5 Sudanese pounds.

The minister of finance and planning, Abdul Rahim Hamdi said almost two months ago free market traders were holding 19 billion Sudanese pounds (\$4.2 billion) and could do a lot of damage to the economy if their activities were not checked.

Bashir said measures to increase Sudan's production had failed to curb price rises.

"Although we were able to produce more cereals and other essential commodities, there was not enough hard currency coming in because of the inability of our commodities to compete in the international market. This made traders increase the rate of the dollar, driving up the prices of commodities and land," he said.

Bank of Sudan Governor Al Sheikh Sid Ahmad said the exchange would take place on May 12.

The governor said larger denominations should be deposited in the holders' bank accounts, where the change would be effected automatically.

Only the new currency, which the governor did not describe, will be put into circulation after May 12. One-pound, 50-piastre and 25-piastre notes will be unaffected by the change.

Surge in oil revenue boosts Libya's '90 GDP

TUNIS (R) — Libya's gross domestic product (GDP) grew by 9.4 per cent in 1990 thanks largely to a surge in oil revenues, the Libyan news agency JANA reported Monday.

JANA, quoting a report from the Economic Planning Secretariat, said Libya's 1990 GDP was 7,816 million dinars (\$27.37 billion).

The oil industry accounted for \$9.7 billion or 28.2 per cent of this. Oil revenue in 1989 was \$7,486 billion.

An increase in Libya's Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) production quota and a surge in oil prices during the Gulf crisis boosted oil revenues in 1990.

According to the World Bank, Libya's GDP declined by an average of six per cent a year between 1980 and 1989.

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush warned Monday that Congress risks a second rescue of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) unless it enacts the administration's sweeping banking system overhaul.

"A bill that would merely recapitalize the bank insurance fund and make minor changes to the law would be shortsighted," Bush wrote in letters to the leaders of the House and Senate banking committees.

"We must fix the fundamental problems in the banking industry, not just fund them," he wrote.

"If the Congress fails to adopt a broad-based solution along the lines I have suggested, we may have to face another recapitalisation of the insurance fund."

Bush's letter was sent to Congress on the eve of the first committee session to begin writing the legislation. The House of Representatives banking subcommittee on financial institutions is scheduled Tuesday to act on a bill that authorises the FDIC to borrow up to \$25 billion to cover bank losses and protect depositors.

The loans would be repaid by raising banks' insurance premiums, but repayment would be guaranteed by the taxpayers.

The bill also would give regulators additional power to crack down on weak banks early, before losses get out of hand.

Next week, the subcommittee is expected to begin work on a second bill encompassing the structural reforms the administration proposed in February. They are considered the most comprehensive rewrite of banking laws since the depression of the 1930s.

The administration wants to permit banks to enter the securities and insurance business, discourage regulators from protecting uninsured deposits over the \$100,000 per account limit, allow industrial and commercial firms to own banks, simplify the complex regulatory bureaucracy and lift remaining barriers to interstate banking.

The deposit insurance and interstate banking reforms are seen as having the best chance of enactment. The other proposals appear to have less congressional support.

Bush urges banking overhaul, warns of second FDIC rescue

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush warned Monday that Congress risks a second rescue of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corp. (FDIC) unless it enacts the administration's sweeping banking system overhaul.

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French unions blast deal between Volvo, Mitsubishi

PARIS (R) — France's two biggest unions condemned a link-up between Sweden's Volvo and Mitsubishi Motors Corp Monday, saying it would allow the Japanese to enter the European car market through the back door.

The communist CGT and the centre-left CFDT called on French car maker Renault, which sealed its own alliance with Volvo last year, to use its power to veto Volvo's deal with Mitsubishi.

"It would be inadmissible and dishonourable for our country if a French company remained associated with a manufacturer who serves as a stepping stone for Japanese competition," said the CGT, Renault's biggest union.

"Volvo is playing the role of Trojan horse for Japanese manufacturers," it added.

Under the accord, Mitsubishi, Volvo and the Dutch state will each take a one-third stake in Volvo Car B.V. of the Netherlands. Volvo currently has a 30 per cent stake in the firm and its Dutch state owns the rest.

The CGT, which always opposed Renault's deal with Volvo, called on Renault Chairman Raymond Levy and the French government to denounce the Volvo-Mitsubishi alliance.

Union officials said Renault and Volvo had agreed in their accord to seek one another's approval before entering into any alliance with other firms.

A CGT official said the Mitsubishi-Volvo deal was not expected to be officially completed until the end of September, leaving Renault's chairman time to veto the pact.

Earlier a Renault spokesman said the Mitsubishi-Volvo accord was positive for Renault. "It was the best solution for Volvo," the spokesman said. "We saw no drawback."

Last year, Renault agreed to buy 25 per cent of Volvo's car division and 45 per cent of its truck division. Volvo bought 20 per cent of Renault's shares and has an option to increase its stake to 25 per cent.

Ford reports record \$884 million loss for first quarter

DEARBORN, Michigan (R) — Ford Motor Co. second-largest carmaker in the United States has reported a steep \$884.4 million loss for the first quarter, a record for the company, and said it will be difficult to make a profit this year.

The loss, equal to \$1.88 a share, compared with a profit of \$506.2 million, or \$1.10 a share, in the 1990 period.

Ford said its total sales and revenues in this year's quarter were \$23.6 billion, down from \$23.6 billion last year.

"Looking forward," said Ford Chairman Harold Poling, "we believe a gradual economic recovery will begin in the second half of the year. Even with that forecast, however, it will be difficult for the company to realise a profit in 1991."

Ford said its worldwide automotive operations lost \$1.2 billion in the quarter, compared with a \$315 million dollars last year. It sold 1.24 million vehicles, down 202,000, or 14 per cent, from the year-ago period.

The company's U.S. automotive operations lost \$947 million in the quarter, compared with earnings of \$160 million a year ago.

Unlike last year, when Ford's overseas operations often weaker earnings in the United States, its foreign auto operations lost \$208 million in the quarter, compared with \$155 million in profit in last year's period.

New York seeks help to avoid being 'left high and dry'

NEW YORK (R) — Central Park Zoo will close, city lights will be turned off and thousands of workers will be fired unless labour leaders and state officials help New York out of its financial crisis, Mayor David Dinkins has warned.

"There is no adjective sufficient to describe the consequences New Yorkers will have to bear if New York is forced to go it alone," Dinkins said after a crisis meeting to discuss the city's woes.

He said New York, the United States' biggest city with some 7.5 million people, would be "left high and dry" if it did not get help soon.

The mayor said the city will be forced to slash essential services by some \$1.5 billion — turning off 25 per cent of the crime-plagued city's street lights — and lay off some 29,000 full and part-time workers starting July 1.

New York State Governor Mario Cuomo, who attended the meeting, pledged to help solve the financial problems. They include a budget gap of some \$465 million in the current fiscal year that ends June 30 and a gap of some \$3.5 billion in the new fiscal year.

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Armenia accuses Soviet troops of waging 'undeclared war', atrocities

YEREVAN, USSR (AP) — Armenian President Levon Ter-Petrosian accused Soviet troops Tuesday of waging "undeclared war" against his republic, and said 23 people died when a village near neighbouring Azerbaijan was razed.

Ter-Petrosian said at a news conference that Soviet and Azerbaijani troops seized three villages Tuesday and arrested more than 20 people, mostly Armenian policemen.

The president and Armenian economist Silaret Berikian said some victims of the renewed violence in the two southern republics suffered atrocities, including scalping.

"Today (Tuesday) the military operation is continuing in a larger way," Ter-Petrosian told reporters in the republic's parliament.

"From a legal point of view, the Soviet army and Interior Ministry have no right to carry out such actions unless there is a declaration of martial law. We are dealing with an act of pure aggression, an act of undeclared war against Armenia."

Ter-Petrosian said 23 people died when Soviet soldiers and Interior Ministry troops using helicopters, tanks and heavy artillery seized the village of Voskepar Monday.

The Armenpress news agency said all homes were destroyed in the village located in the Gorisky region, about 350 kilometres southeast of the Armenian capital of Yerevan.

Three more villages in the region — Gornidgor, Tekh and Shumka — were seized Tuesday, Ter-Petrosian said. More than 20 people mostly Armenian policemen, were arrested and taken in the direction of the Azerbaijani border, he said. Some were reportedly executed, he said, without elaborating.

Nine of the missing policemen are from Gornidgor, said Ashot Antinian, head of the Armenian parliament's press centre. He said 11 of the 23 victims in Voskepar also were policemen.

Armenia and Azerbaijan have been feuding for centuries over land disputes as well as religious and cultural differences.

Hundreds have been killed in sporadic fighting which erupted in 1987 over Nagorno-Karabakh — a verdant, hilly area that has been under Azerbaijani rule for nearly 70 years.

Violence flared again on April 29 when Soviet troops based in Azerbaijan began disarming Armenians and evacuating several hundred residents.

Armenia sent several hundred police to the border, with instructions to return fire "when we realised that no one in the Soviet army really had any intention of defending us," Antinian said.

"For three years we did not answer the shots from Azerbaijan. People kept dying. We started to defend ourselves as best we can," he said.

The Supreme Soviet national legislature Tuesday rejected a request by the Armenian legislature to convene an extraordinary session of the national parliament, the Congress of People's Deputies, to consider the conflict. The vote was 261-8 with 33 abstentions.

The Supreme Soviet did instruct the national Prosecutor's Office to send an investigative team to the troubled areas.

Armenian authorities say 37 people were killed and many others injured last week when Azerbaijani and Soviet forces attacked the villages of Getashen and Martunashen.

Soviet officials said troops were trying to disarm Armenian vigilantes in the villages which are populated by Armenians but are located inside Azerbaijan.

Berikian, the economist, told the news conference that he counted 20 bodies in Getashen

and said many suffered atrocities including scalping. He said others may have died when their homes were robbed and then burned.

Berikian, who spent several days delivering food to Getashen, said the atrocities "were too repulsive to describe."

"The majority of houses have been robbed," he said. "Getashen was all burned. It's just ashes. To find all the corpses is impossible."

Ter-Petrosian said the Armenians consider the attacks on Getashen and Martunashen "forced deportation of Armenians, an act of state terrorism, carried out by the forces of the Soviet army, Interior Ministry troops and Azerbaijani militiamen, according to a plan prepared in advance."

Antinian said another 16-18 helicopters capable of carrying up to 85 soldiers each arrived in Yerevan Tuesday. The Soviet news agency (TASS) said Monday that 200 paratroopers were airlifted by helicopter into Yerevan to protect military personnel and installations, including a nuclear power plant.

"Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev said Monday that his government 'cannot be blamed' for trying to settle the bitter ethnic dispute."



Khaleda Zia

Bangladesh again urges help for cyclone victims

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh appealed again Tuesday for massive international aid to save survivors of last week's devastating cyclone that killed more than 125,000 people and threatens millions with hunger and death.

"I am again appealing to the world to help us to overcome this great human tragedy," Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia said.

"Such help will save millions," Zia told a news conference, her first since taking office two months ago after her party's February election victory.

She issued the appeal after the military launched a sea-borne relief operation with the government's scanty resources to help nearly 4.5 million people facing starvation and death because of lack of drinking water and food.

Three navy gunboats with relief materials sailed for the island of Kutubdia where a third of its 91,000 population were confirmed dead.

Giant C-130 planes with tents, blankets, medicine and food, arrived in Dhaka from Saudi Arabia and Pakistan in response to Zia's earlier appeal, made soon after the cyclone and tidal wave struck the Bangladesh coast on April 29, the most powerful in the country's 20-year history.

Japan announced Tuesday it would give \$200 million in emergency aid.

The official total confirmed death toll stood at 125,672 Monday but could climb to 200,000, Red Crescent officials said.

"The entire population of Bangladesh is united to face this calamity... we are making relentless efforts in this respect," said Zia who plans to fly to Saudi Arabia, Kuwait and the United Arab Emirates next week to seek more aid.

The military, civil servants and foreign-funded non-government organisations were launching a concerted relief operation, she added.

The army has opened a control centre in the president's secretariat to monitor relief operation. Its commander said they had limited resources.

"We have the ability and the strength, but we don't have resources," said Brigadier Shafaat Ahmad, officer in charge of the centre.

A total of 16 helicopters were each making 14 sorties a day to affected areas with food and medicine but they were too few for such a huge relief operation.

Three of the helicopters had been donated by India and two by Pakistan, he said. At least 10 more were needed.

"We are doing whatever we can," he said. Community feeding programmes had been introduced in many areas.

Bush is back at work, wired to heart monitor

WASHINGTON (AP) — President George Bush, boasting he feels "wonderfully well," is back on a full work schedule with a heart monitor strapped to his waist.

The president's heartbeat registered normal within 25 minutes of his return to the White House Monday morning on a two-night stay at Bethesda Naval Hospital brought on by an irregular beat. And it didn't take him long to get back to a normal work schedule.

On Tuesday, Bush was honoured the small business person of the year in a Rose Garden ceremony, mapping strategy with Senate leaders on a free trade pact with Mexico and welcoming Finnish President Mauno Koivisto for talks and a luncheon.

He also planned to meet Tuesday with Italy's President Francesco Cossiga and Prime Minister

Giulio Andreotti. Dr. Burton Lee, the White House physician, said late Monday that Bush was in "good humour and good health" on his first day back on the job. "No problems of any kind have arisen since he left the hospital," the doctor added.

Bush, dropping by an East Room reception for educators, said "I really do feel wonderfully well. ...I'm glad to be here in more ways than one."

A White House nurse monitored the president's heartbeat between meetings Monday as Bush welcomed a stream of visitors, including former Soviet Foreign Minister Eduard Shevardnadze, Cameroon President Paul Biya and former Minnesota Sen. Rudy Boschwitz, back from a presidential mercy mission to Ethiopia.



Spanish village votes to burn Maradona effigy

NAVARE, Spain (R) — Disgraced Argentina and Napoli soccer star Diego Maradona, banned from football and charged with drug possession, has one more torment to endure. A Spanish village has voted to burn him in effigy at the stake. The 275 villagers of Minerva in the Basque-speaking region of Navarre voted in a traditional May rite to put a straw effigy of Maradona on a pole in the village square to be insulted for a month before being burnt at the stake. "Every year we choose a popular figure and this year it is Maradona," a local official told Reuters. "The fiesta is a lot of fun." Previous effigies burnt by villagers include former British Prime Minister Margaret Thatcher, Real Madrid goalkeeper Paco Buyo and J.R. Ewing, villain of the U.S. television series Dallas. Maradona has been banned from football until July 1992 for failing a dope test after an Italian League game with Napoli. He was freed on \$20,000 bail Sunday after being charged with possession and supplying drugs free of charge to others.

Big clean-up bill in graffiti attack at Louvre subway stop

PARIS (AP) — What is art? On the metro, the answer is easy: Egyptian-style statues at the classy Louvre subway stop make the grade. Huge blotches of graffiti spray-painted on them don't.

Metro officials will spend 500,000 francs (\$80,000) over the next month to eliminate all traces of a spray-paint attack at one of the capital's underground showcases.

"This time, they've gone too far," one passenger said. "It's a real crime." The Louvre-Rivoli stop remains a point of pride in a city that has seen its once-pride subway deteriorate in recent years, under a deluge of spray paint, overdue repairs and derelicts.

At the stop, copies of Egyptian statues and other ancient artworks from the Louvre Museum upstairs grace the walls in well-polished glass cases.

Advertising posters are forbidden. During the metro's overnight-closing hours recently, a graffiti commando destroyed the special ambulance by tagging the name "gary" all over the walls in garish letters. A statue of the Egyptian goddess Sekhmet was covered in green paint. Same with one of Osiris. A representation of the Greek goddess Artemis looked like a paint-bomb exploded on it. The graffiti artists got away. Metro authorities are now trying to clean up. A team of 50 workers removed the worst of the stains, but officials estimate one month will be needed before the station returns to its museum-quality.

Officials say it is impossible to guard all the metro's stations from blight-minded painters. Ordinary stations "tagged" by graffiti artists often go uncleaned for months. Metro officials expect to spend 200 million francs (\$33 million) to clean up graffiti on stations and subway cars this year.

Miss Saigon, Will Rogers Follies top Tony nominations

NEW YORK (R) — Miss Saigon, which almost did not open on Broadway amid a controversy over its casting, topped the list of 1991 Tony Award nominees along with a rival musical, The Will Rogers Follies. Each musical received 11 nominations, setting the stage for a battle royal between the two spare-no-expense spectacles when Broadway's version of Hollywood's Oscars are awarded on June 2 in a televised ceremony.

Miss Saigon, an update of Madame Butterfly set in the waning days of the Vietnam war, had been called racist by Asian groups for its depiction of Asian women as well as the casting of British actor Jonathan Pryce as a Eurasian pimp. Protesters wanted an Asian actor in the role and producer Cameron Mackintosh cancelled the show when Actors Equity barred Pryce from performing. The union reversed its decision and the show opened to nightly street demonstrations, rave reviews and sold-out houses. Pryce and his Filipina co-star Lea Salonga, both of whom originated their roles in London, were nominated for leading performances in a musical.

The Will Rogers Follies, directed by Tommy Tune, won nominations for leads Keith Carradine and Dee Hoty as well as for Tune, one of the major figures on the Broadway musical scene.

S.Korean police battle protesters guarding body of labour leader

SEOUL (AP) — About 1,000 riot police battled for nine hours Tuesday with clubs and tear gas to gain control of a morgue where protesters guarded the body of a labour leader who died after staging a protest in prison.

The clash was part of escalating nationwide unrest over last month's fatal beating of a student by police. Opponents of the government called for further mass protests, deepening the political crisis for President Roh Tae-Woo.

Dissidents contended that police wanted to seize Park Chang-Soo's body to destroy evidence that might indicate he was killed. The government said he committed suicide.

Prosecutors said late Tuesday that an autopsy conducted after police took control of the morgue showed Park died of a broken spine and ruptured intestines suffered in a fall.

Park's family charged that the autopsy was a government cover-up.

Dissident labour leaders said they would organise protests, including sit-ins and work stoppages, to demand an independent investigation.

An alliance of 40 dissident, worker and student groups issued a demand that Roh fire the labour minister and the justice minister and fully investigate Park's death. They also demanded the release of 1,300 political prisoners.

Meanwhile, about 600 radical students shouting "don't compromise with the murderous regime" barged into the main offices of the leading opposition new Democratic Union Party to stage a sit-in.

"Fight to the end," they yelled. They said they would not leave until the party took a hard stand against the government. The party has discouraged violence in the current protests.

Park, a 30-year-old union leader, was arrested in February for promoting solidarity strikes and support of shipyard strikers and

before he died, was on a hunger strike to protest alleged labour oppression and the student's death, relatives and dissidents said.

His body was found Monday on the grounds of the prison hospital, where he had been taken hours earlier after allegedly being injured in a prison game with other inmates. There was no suicide note, investigators said.

He was wearing a patient's robe and investigators said they surmised that he had jumped from a window or the roof of the building.

On Tuesday, riot police armed with clubs and bamboo spears stormed the Anyang Hospital's basement morgue south of Seoul, where several dozen protesters guarded the body and some 1,000 workers and students outside kept a vigil.

"Bloody hand-to-hand fighting took place between hundreds of workers and police," said the Rev. Kang Hee-Nam, a dissident leader who was there.

Yugoslav leaders hold crisis talks on war threat

BELGRADE (R) — Yugoslav leaders held crisis talks Tuesday after the army said civil war had begun and warned that troops would open fire if attacked.

"Yugoslav society has already entered a civil war," Defence Minister General Veljko Kadijevic told President Borisav Jovic Monday night during an emergency session of the state presidency.

"The army will respond according to combat rules, which means even with fire, to any attacks on members, units or facilities of the army," Kadijevic, who did not attend the meeting due to illness, said by telephone.

He said the army had gone on full combat alert after a 19-year-old soldier was killed during an anti-army protest by at least 30,000 people outside a naval base in the Adriatic port city of Split in the Republic of Croatia.

Diplomats said they had reports that the army had started calling up reservists in the last 24 hours.

The army has been deployed in parts of Croatia to halt a wave of clashes involving Serbs and Croats, the country's biggest nationalities, in which at least 18 people have died since Thursday. The presidency has authorised it to intervene.

The violence, the bloodiest between Serbs and Croats since World War II, erupted again overnight although fewer armed civilians manned roadblocks than in previous days.

Two rifle grenades smashed into the village of Brsadin in eastern Croatia, a bomb was thrown into a Serbian-owned cafe in nearby Borovo and shooting broke out in several areas, Tanjug News Agency said. No new deaths were reported.

British actor Wilfrid Hyde-White dies at 87

LOS ANGELES (AP) — British actor Wilfrid Hyde-White, whose 66-year acting career in plays, film and television included his portrayal of Col. Pickering in the movie My Fair Lady, died Monday at age 87.

Hyde-White died of congestive heart failure at the Motion Picture and Television Hospital, where he had been a patient since 1985, said Louella Benson, a spokeswoman for the Motion Picture and Television Fund.

With his silvery hair and dry aristocratic manner, Hyde-White portrayed the quintessential English gentleman in many films, plays and television shows.

Although his best-known performance in this country was in the 1964 classic My Fair Lady, the actor's son said his father preferred his performance with Peter Sellers in the 1960 British comedy film Two Way Stretch.

"It made him a star supporting actor in Britain, and that helped him get My Fair Lady a few years later," said Alex Hyde-White, 31, also an actor.

Born in Gloucester, England,

Hyde-White trained at the Royal Academy of Dramatic Art after his actor uncle, J. Fisher White, failed to talk him out of an acting career.

Hyde-White began his career in British theatre and films. He first appeared on the London stage in 1925 as a juror in Beggar On Horseback. He also appeared in such plays as Rise Above It and Caesar And Cleopatra. His British films include Gaily, Gaily and Rembrandt.

Hyde-White's American television credits included a brief run as Martin Peyton on the 1960s nighttime soap opera, Peyton Place.

He also starred as Emerson Marshall in the critically acclaimed but short-lived television series The Associates, which aired on ABC in 1979 and 1980. And he portrayed Dr. Goodfellow in television's Buck Rogers in the 25th Century.

Hyde-White is survived by his wife, Ethel, sons Alex and Michael, daughter Juliet and four grandsons.

At least 50 missing in Peru boat accident

LIMA, Peru (AP) — At least 50 people were missing after a drifting, disabled ferry crashed into an oil tanker and sunk in a river in Peru's northern jungle, civil defence officials said.

Officials said about 160 people were rescued in the accident Monday and an undetermined number of injured were taken to a hospital in Iquitos, an Amazon River town 620 miles (1,000 kilometres) northeast of Lima.

Unofficial reports said earlier that as many as 260 passengers were reported missing when the passenger boat Chachita slammed into an oil tanker Monday before dawn.

Reports said the boat officially had 180 passengers, but other versions said there were as many as 400 people aboard.

The civil defence normally is cautious in releasing casualty figures, and officials gave no more details about the accident.

Jorge Merino, a spokesman for the state oil company Petropuru, owner of the tanker, said 136 passengers had been rescued. Merino blamed earlier, erroneous versions of 250 survivors on poor radio communications.

Merino said the accident occurred before dawn Monday on an isolated stretch of the Amazon River, a tributary of the Amazon, near the port of San Jose de Saramuro 850 kilometres north-east of Lima.

Police and the captain of the river port of Iquitos, 220 kilometres northwest of the accident site, confirmed the mishap but would not give details.

The wooden Chachita was covering the route from the jungle town of Yurimaguas, 750 kilometres northeast of Lima, to Iquitos, Merino said. He said the boat was drifting just prior to the crash because of motor failure.

Police threaten arrests as riots continue in Washington

WASHINGTON (AP) — Police threatened large-scale arrests early Tuesday after a second straight night of rock-throwing, car burning and looting in parts of the nation's capital.

"Enough is enough," said Mayor Sharon Pratt Dixon.

At daybreak, police reported the area was quiet. About 44 arrests were made, mostly for disorderly conduct, authorities reported.

Police cars with bullhorns ordered residents off the streets of a largely Hispanic neighbourhood and Dixon ordered an overnight curfew after disturbances began to spread.

The unrest stemmed from an incident Sunday night in which a Hispanic man was shot and wounded by a policeman trying to arrest him in a dispute over drinking in public.

Thirteen police officers were injured and 13 police cars damaged in the melee that followed, authorities said. Fire chief Ray Alfred Jr. was injured when a brick crashed through the window of his car and hit him in the head. He was not seriously hurt.

At least two stores were burned, and one security guard was rescued from the basement of a burning store where he had taken refuge.

"We need to put an end to it and we're going to put an end to it tonight," Dixon said late Monday as bands of youths fought hit-and-run skirmishes with police. Stinging tear gas lingered over a 12-block area of the nation's capital just two miles (3.2 kilometres) from the White House.

Rampaging youths, some masking their faces with bandanas, smashed shop windows, wrecked a fried chicken restaurant and a city commuter bus and overturned cars, then set them ablaze. Burning trash lay in the streets of the city's Mount Pleasant area.

Flames erupted from one storefront while owners sat in some shops with their families in hope of discouraging looters. Others boarded their windows.

Hundreds of police flooded into the neighbourhood and drove back rock throwers by firing dozens of tear gas canisters.

But the bands of youths merely ran off and struck again elsewhere. The disturbance spread into the adjoining Adams-Morgan neighbourhood and black youngsters, some appearing as young as 10 years old, joined in.

Police cars roared through flames erupting from burning refuse as they raced to answer scattered calls for help across the area.

Dixon and police officials initially refrained from arrests, wary lest a wholesale crackdown make the situation worse. "I think their concerns are legitimate," the mayor said. "We do need to be more responsive."

Dixon walked through the area at one point. But she cut her inspection short after 10 minutes as the clouds of tear gas grew thicker.

Deputy Chief Edward Spurlough, commander of the police in Mount Pleasant Street, conferred with a group of community residents, while people in a crowd nearby shouted at police: "asesinos," — the Spanish word for assassins.

Before the first volley of tear

gas, community leaders had linked arms in a line between police and the crowd.

After the disturbances failed to burn themselves out, city officials decided to get tough. "It's clear that we need to make arrests now," police chief Isaac Fulwood Jr. said. "We need to isolate those who are breaking the law."

A midnight-5 a.m. (0400 to 0900 GMT) curfew was imposed in the disturbance area, as well as a state of emergency.

The trouble started Sunday night after 30-year-old Daniel Enrique Gomez was wounded by a policeman who was trying to arrest him and several others in a dispute over drinking in public.

Police said he attacked the policeman with a knife.

Some neighbourhood residents believed Gomez was handcuffed at the time and thus could not have drawn a knife. Police said the fact that others being arrested at the same time were handcuffed could have caused confusion.

Gomez was listed in critical condition in a Washington hospital. He was charged with assaulting a police officer.